



GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD ACTION

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

Board of Commissioners

File #: 16-030

Commissioner Williams - To Approve the Gastonia Township Grant Recommendation (\$1,000,000 Fund Balance Appropriation)

STAFF CONTACT

Earl Mathers, County Manager (704) 866-3101

BUDGET IMPACT

Reduces Fund Balance by \$1,000,000.

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.

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

- Project INVEST in our Youth - \$10k
Hunter Huss High School Track & Security (BOE) - \$110k
Lucile Tatum Center - \$55k
Ranlo Park and Community Building Expansion/Improvement Project - \$144k
Smyre Water System Conversion - \$227k

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:

Handwritten signature of Donna S. Buff

Table with columns: NO., DATE, M1, M2, Brown, Carpenter, Fraley, Keigher, Philbeck, Price, Williams, Vote. Row 1: 2016-036, 01/26/2016, JW, MP, A, A, A, N, A, A, A, 6-1

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Commissioner Williams - To Approve the Gastonia Township Grant Recommendation (**\$1,000,000 Fund Balance Appropriation**)

Page 2

- Spray-ground/Splash pad addition at Erwin Park - \$180k
- Playground addition for Smyre Millennium Park - \$45k
- Playground addition for I.C. Falls Park - \$45k
- Gaston Farmers Market Expansion - \$33k
- The Dream Center Academy (Tracy Philbeck Co-Sponsor) - \$75k
- Poston Park Sidewalk Connector (Mickey Price Co-Sponsor) - \$76k

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**

**Gastonia Township**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
Project INVEST in our Youth	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Hunter Huss High School Track & Security (BOE)	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000
Lucile Tatum Center	\$ 60,000	\$ 55,000
Ranlo Park and Community Building Expansion/Improvement Project	\$ 144,345	\$ 144,000
Smyre Water System Conversion	\$ 227,275	\$ 227,000
Spray-ground/Splash pad addition at Erwin Park	\$ 300,000	\$ 180,000
Playground addition for Smyre Millennium Park	\$ 75,000	\$ 45,000
Playground addition for I.C. Falls Park	\$ 75,000	\$ 45,000
Gaston Farmers Market Expansion	\$ 55,000	\$ 33,000
The Dream Center Academy <b>*Tracy Philbeck Co-Sponsor</b>	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000
Poston Park Sidewalk Connector <b>*Mickey Price Co-Sponsor (Revised Project Amount)</b>	\$ 152,000	\$ 76,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,620</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

## Township Grant – Application Guidelines

➤ **Project/Program Name**

**Project I. N. V. E. S. T. In Our Youth**

(Inquiring, Negotiating, Valuing, Engaging, Stimulating, Teaching)

➤ **Sponsoring Commissioner**

**Jason Williams**

➤ **Applicant Organization, Contact Information and Contact Person**

**Tabernacle Baptist Church**

**Dr. Benjamin Hinton, Sr. Pastor**

**Dorothy L. Guthrie, Grant Coordinator**

**519 West 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Gastonia, North Carolina 28052**

**704.864.4051 (Church Number)**

**[tbchurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:tbchurch@bellsouth.net)**

**704.616.5185 (Dorothy Guthrie's Cell Number)**

**[camptabernacle@gmail.com](mailto:camptabernacle@gmail.com)**

➤ **Township Name**

**Gastonia Township**

➤ **Amount Requested**

**\$10,000.00**

➤ **Program/Project Description**

**Educational Tutorial and Literacy Enrichment Program**

➤ **Estimated Duration of the Project or Program**

**Weekly Year Round Program – Details Included**



## Project: I. N. V. E. S. T. In Our Youth

(Inquiring, Negotiating, Valuing, Engaging, Stimulating,  
Teaching)

Tabernacle Baptist Church Learning Center

**Mission:** Serve the Gaston Community by educating the Gaston children. The TBC Learning Center's Mission is to meet the needs of the community by offering lifelong learning opportunities, ensuring there is a positive impact in the community.

**Vision:** A Classroom Built on Excellence, Produces a Community of Responsible Citizens.

**Project I. N. V. E. S. T.**, is both an educational and fun enrichment program. The TBC Learning Center recognizes that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children need to succeed. Therefore, the TBC Learning Center respects the individual needs of children by embracing innovation and change; fosters a caring and creative environment; and emphasizes the social, emotional, physical, intellectual development of each child. We want to make a rigorous effort to have parents, schools, and the community actively involved in support of student learning.

**Description:** Located at 519 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, **Project I. N. V. E. S. T.**, is an educational program that evolved from The TBC Learning Center's summer programming. This center offers learning opportunities and support to education for all children of different racial, cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds from preschool to high school. We teach our children to work hard, play hard, and maximize their abilities.

### How Does It Work?

The TBC Learning Center has partnered with the Gaston County Schools, and The Piedmont Chapter of Links, Inc., to sponsor Project INVEST. The project is designed to work with children once a week on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (90 minutes), from October to the end of May 2016. Currently, there are twenty (20) children on roll. There are tutors that work with children needing help in all subject areas with the primary focus in **reading and math**. The children are divided into sections based on grade level.

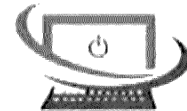
Parents are encouraged to bring information to let tutors know exactly what is needed each week. Children needing help or additional reinforcement of skills come from both public and private schools.

The tutors are certified teachers, retired educators and volunteers from the business world.

In June, **Project I. N. V. E. S. T.** will become **Camp I. N. V. E. S. T.**, our summer enrichment module, offered once a week on Wednesdays. This program will begin on June 15 and run thru July 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For teenagers, it can encourage an interest in a topic or add to their college application and resume. Whether for education or fun, enrichment programs have a great deal to offer children by simply giving up a day each week of their summer.

In addition to the Language Arts and STEAM related programs, some fun programs and trips will be planned to enhance learning and history. The opportunity to travel will be available to students enrolled in the program.



**Linking to Literacy**

We **CAN Set the P. A. C. E.!** (Partners Actively Committed to Education)

is the **STEM for Learners**

Their future is in our hands. Our future is in theirs. **Project I. N. V. E. S. T.**, allows us to make the Gaston County community stronger by providing opportunities for children to grow, to learn, and to thrive.

With programs focusing on literacy, leadership, good nutrition, and other character traits that lead to future success, we are working with parents and partners to enrich the lives of hundreds of children and their families in Gaston County.

We want our children to experience North Carolina and appreciate their state. Some field trips will be planned for Summer **I. N. V. E. S. T.** We plan to visit the following:

- Gaston County Museum
- Schiele Museum
- Stowe Botanical Gardens
- Old Salem

**Resources Needed to Support Program:**

Quantity	Item and Purpose	Price
	Leveled Literacy Resources – to enhance reading and comprehension skills	4,750.00
	Best Nonfiction Books for Grades K-12 – Interest and popular titles to support curricula.	1,500.00
	Best Fiction Titles – Popular Genres, Well-Known Authors, Subject and Interest Books for K-12	2,000.00
5	Chrome Books – to be used by students engaged in Compass Learning and those assigned by tutors to work on specific reading and math activities	1,000.00
	Instructional Supplies	500.00
	Apps	250.00

<b>TOTAL Amount of Request</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
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**Gaston County Commissioners—Township Grant Application  
December 2015**

**Project/Program Name:** Hunter Huss High School Track and Security

**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Commissioner Jason Williams

**Applicant Organization/Contact Person:** Gaston County Board of Education;  
Superintendent Jeff Booker 704-866-6111

**Township Name:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$110,000

**Program/Project Description and Estimated Duration:** (please see attachment)

**Evaluation Matrix**

Criteria	Weight	Score
<b>1. Impact:</b> Percentage of the population of the township or county as a whole served by the program and the significance of the benefit received.	1 - 5	5
<b>2. Sustainability:</b> The extent to which the program or capital improvement can be sustained without additional county financial support.	1 - 5	5
<b>3. Match/Leverage:</b> Other resources are available to fund a portion of the project. (Outside support of 50% or more results in a maximum score of 5 for this criterion.)	1 - 5	3
<b>4. Job Creation/Economic Development:</b> The program or improvement results in or fosters job creation and/or economic development.	1 - 5	3
<b>5. Education:</b> Significant gains in primary, secondary or high education are associated with the program or project.	1 - 5	5
<b>6. Quality of Life/Health/Safety:</b> The project or program yields significant benefits in one or more of these areas for Gaston County residents.	1 - 5	5
<b>Total</b>	6 - 30	26



## **Program/Project Narrative**

The Gastonia Township includes 18 schools with a student population of 10,077. The track project as well as the security project for Hunter Huss High School improves existing facilities and enables quality and safe after school as well as community events/activities.

The track portion of this request will remove the existing asphalt track, lay a new asphalt track as well as stripe the new track so that safe practice and track meets will be a reality for this facility. The benefits are definite for Hunter Huss High. The benefits extend to the two middle schools that feed into Hunter Huss as well as community use of this facility. Costs for the track project are estimated to be \$85,000.

The security portion of this request will enable the large practice field on Edgefield Avenue to be secure for various school events as well as community use. Costs for the security fencing project are estimated to be \$25,000.

The total cost of this Township Request is \$110,000.



## GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWNSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

**Date:** December 21, 2015

**Project Name:** Lucille Tatum Center – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Improvements

**Commissioner:** Jason Williams

**Applicant:** Gaston County Government

**Contact:** Ray Maxwell, PE  
(704)862-7551  
[Ray.Maxwell@gastongov.com](mailto:Ray.Maxwell@gastongov.com)

**Township:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$60,000

**Project Description:** Upgrade parking, signage and entrance, restrooms and kitchen areas to comply with Federal ADA requirements.

**Estimated Duration:** Twelve (12) months to design/construct

**Background:** The Lucille Tatum Center is located at 959 Osceola Street in Gastonia. The building was originally constructed in 1970 and consists of 4,954 square feet. The Lucille Tatum Center houses the Extension and Community Association (ECA), which works to strengthen families and improve the quality of life within our community. ECA is a state volunteer organization, supported by the NC Cooperative Extension. Gaston County members participate in many projects such as:

- Supporting NC Cooperative Extension programs (ie., 4-H youth summer workshops, local food/food preservation classes).
- Teaching craft classes – such as quilting, ceramics, and paper crafting (offered on a regular monthly basis).
- Supporting CaroMont Regional Medical Center with pillows for surgical patients and baby quilts for the pediatric neo-natal unit.

(continued...)

One of seven ECA clubs, the Martha Goebel ECA Club, targets individuals with visual disabilities. This club provides life enrichment activities and an opportunity for members to serve their community. Many of these members are legally blind, requiring transportation services and adaptive living devices.

1. Matter of Balance Program: This an evidence-based community health program (8 sessions – 16hrs) that focuses on fall prevention and increasing physical activity. The program is designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength. The workshop includes activities to improve balance and strengthen muscles as well as discussion about fall prevention steps to make throughout your home. Program is sponsored by the Centralina Area Agency on Aging.
2. Living Healthy: A 6-week course developed by Stanford University to help anyone who lives with ongoing health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, heart and breathing problems. Learn to increase endurance, strength, and flexibility; use medications effectively; manage symptoms such as pain, fatigue and depression; solve problems and set goals; eat well. Program is sponsored by Centralina Area Agency on Aging.
3. Living Healthy with Diabetes: A 6-week course, developed by Stanford University, is for anyone with diabetes, pre-diabetes, or at risk for diabetes. Participants will learn how to prevent low blood sugar; prevent and delay complications of diabetes; eat well; use medications effectively; manage pain, fatigue and depression; solve problems and set goals. Program is sponsored by Centralina Area Agency on Aging.

These programs and many others are offered through the Lucille Tatum Center. A few minor exterior accessibility issues exist at the site which can likely be handled with new signage, striping, and designation of the appropriate accessible entrance. However, the restrooms and kitchen counters, sinks, stoves, etc. do not comply with Federal ADA requirements.

The proposed project consists of minor exterior improvements including re-striping, signage, etc. More extensive work will be required within the center, including complete renovations of the existing restrooms and upgrades/changes to the kitchen areas to comply with Federal ADA requirements.

Improvements proposed as a result of this grant request would benefit participants, staff, and patrons of the Lucille Tatum Center, many of which are mature in age. The project will be sustainable in that, once permanently installed, the improvements will be routinely maintained as part of the County's ongoing maintenance efforts. Temporary design and construction employment opportunities will be created as a result of the proposed project. The Lucille Tatum Center serves the elderly portion of our population and the products they make touch the lives of many individuals throughout the County. The programs and products offered contribute to a better quality of life, health, and safety of our community.

## **Township Grant Application Cover Sheet**

Project Name - Ranlo Park and Community Building Expansion & Improvement Project

Sponsoring Commissioner – Jason Williams

Applicant – The Town of Ranlo

Township – Gastonia

Total Amount Requested for Entire Project - \$144,345

(See attached narrative for breakdown into individual project component costs.)

Project Description – This is a comprehensive project to expand our Town parks, improve the existing facilities at those parks, install new facilities at those parks, improve the condition of our community buildings and increase the accessibility to all those facilities as a means to improve the quality of life and health of citizens of all ages and demographic groups while, at the same time, enhancing the livability of Ranlo in order to foster further residential housing development.

Estimated Duration of the Project – Construction phase of one year or less. After completion these facilities will be perpetually maintained by the Town and kept available for citizen use.



TOWN OF RANLO  
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD  
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28054  
PHONE (704) 824-3461 / FAX (704) 824-3423



November 18, 2015

Mr. Earl Mathers, Gason County Manager  
128 West Main Ave.  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053

RE: Gaston County Township Grant

Dear Mr. Mathers:

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the Town of Ranlo to respectfully request that you consider and present to the County Board of Commissioners our request for funding from the Township Grant recently announced. We are a small municipality, having limited resources with which to provide facilities or programs that promote our citizens quality of life, health and safety. However, we do have two parks which are heavily utilized for recreational, sporting and exercise activities. We also have two community buildings that are heavily utilized for both private and public gatherings. These facilities do directly impact the quality of life and health of our citizens.

We have had ongoing discussions about needed improvements to those facilities in order to make them more accessible and appealing to all demographic groups in the area. We have already spent Town funds to acquire some new land to expand the park; and, we have already spent Town funds to repair/replace damaged park equipment during the past two years. However, we lack the funds to complete the comprehensive plan we have in mind. We believe our improvement plan would promote the quality of life, health and safety of all age groups living within Ranlo and the surrounding area. We also believe the improved facilities would make Ranlo a more appealing place to live thereby helping economic development by providing a selling point for a newly approved housing subdivision. The project would be sustainable because once the initial costs for the improvements are covered the maintenance of the facilities would be minimal in comparison to those initial costs. We would be able to fund the maintenance in our annual recreation budget. Therefore, we are requesting that you consider providing the funding to complete the following projects.

#### **Park Play Equipment**

Our park play ground is used by families and children of all ages on a daily basis, including families that live outside of Ranlo. The play equipment is limited. We would like to install a new multifunctional play set in the main park that would provide activities for children of all ages. We could then relocate some of the existing equipment to our second park, which is

located in a minority neighborhood. We have a proposal for the turn key installation of such equipment for just under **\$30,000**.

### **Park Expansion**

We have purchased a track of land adjoining our park with the intention of expanding the park and providing a small soccer field or similar open play area. However, the land currently has two old buildings that must be cleared of asbestos and demolished. We have a proposal for the asbestos remediation at a cost of **\$3,200**. We have a proposal for the demolition of both buildings and rough grading of the site at a cost of **\$14,800**. We would finish the grading and seeding and equipping of the play field with Town employees and Town funds.

### **Tree Removal**

There are several large, old and damaged trees within the park, on the adjoining tract of land and surrounding one of our community buildings that need to be removed to expand the park and to reduce the risk of a tree falling on people or equipment. We have a proposal to remove the trees in the park where the new play equipment is to be installed for **\$2,650**. We have a proposal to remove the trees from the adjoining tract to be used for park expansion at a cost of **\$8,800**. We have a proposal to remove the trees at the community building at a cost of **\$4,750**. The tree removal in the park and on the adjoining tract would be the most important to our plans if all three could not be funded.

### **Paving/Surface Improvements**

We have a gravel walking track that is utilized daily by adult and senior citizens. The track requires constant maintenance and can become quite rutted and muddy after rain. We would like to pave that track. We have a proposal to improve and pave the track at a cost of **\$25,910**.

We have two paved outdoor basketball courts (one in each park) that are utilized daily by teenagers and young adults. The pavement on those courts is many years old and has become heavily cracked and damaged. We have a proposal to resurface the large court in the main park for **\$13,305**. We have a proposal to resurface the smaller court in the second park for **\$7,950**.

There is a lack of adequate parking at our park and one of our community buildings located in the park. We would like to construct paved parking on two grassy areas adjacent to the park. We have a proposal to pave the larger area for **\$20,510**. We have a proposal to pave the smaller area for **\$12,470**.

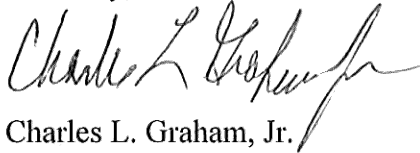
There are additional renovations and kitchen equipment needed for our community buildings. However, we do not have cost proposals for those items as of now. We would attempt to make those improvements using Town funds if the above projects can be funded through the grant. The projects outlined above represent a total funding request of **\$144,345**. We would be extremely grateful if you would consider funding all of this request. If there is insufficient funds

to meet all of these needs we would be just as grateful to receive whatever amount you deem appropriate that we may fund as many of these projects as possible.

Again, these facilities are heavily utilized by people of all ages from Ranlo; and, by family and friends of those living in Ranlo. We are very proud to be able to provide these facilities but they are in need of improvement. Your funding would make it possible to complete all of these major improvements quickly thereby allowing us to utilize Town funds on a pay as you go basis to make the other renovations to the community buildings. We know that our parks and community buildings are appreciated by our citizens and they would also appreciate any assistance you can give to help us improve these facilities.

I have attached some photographs in an attempt to help you visualize the areas to be improved along with a photograph of the new play equipment. If you need any further information from us to assist you in making your decision please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

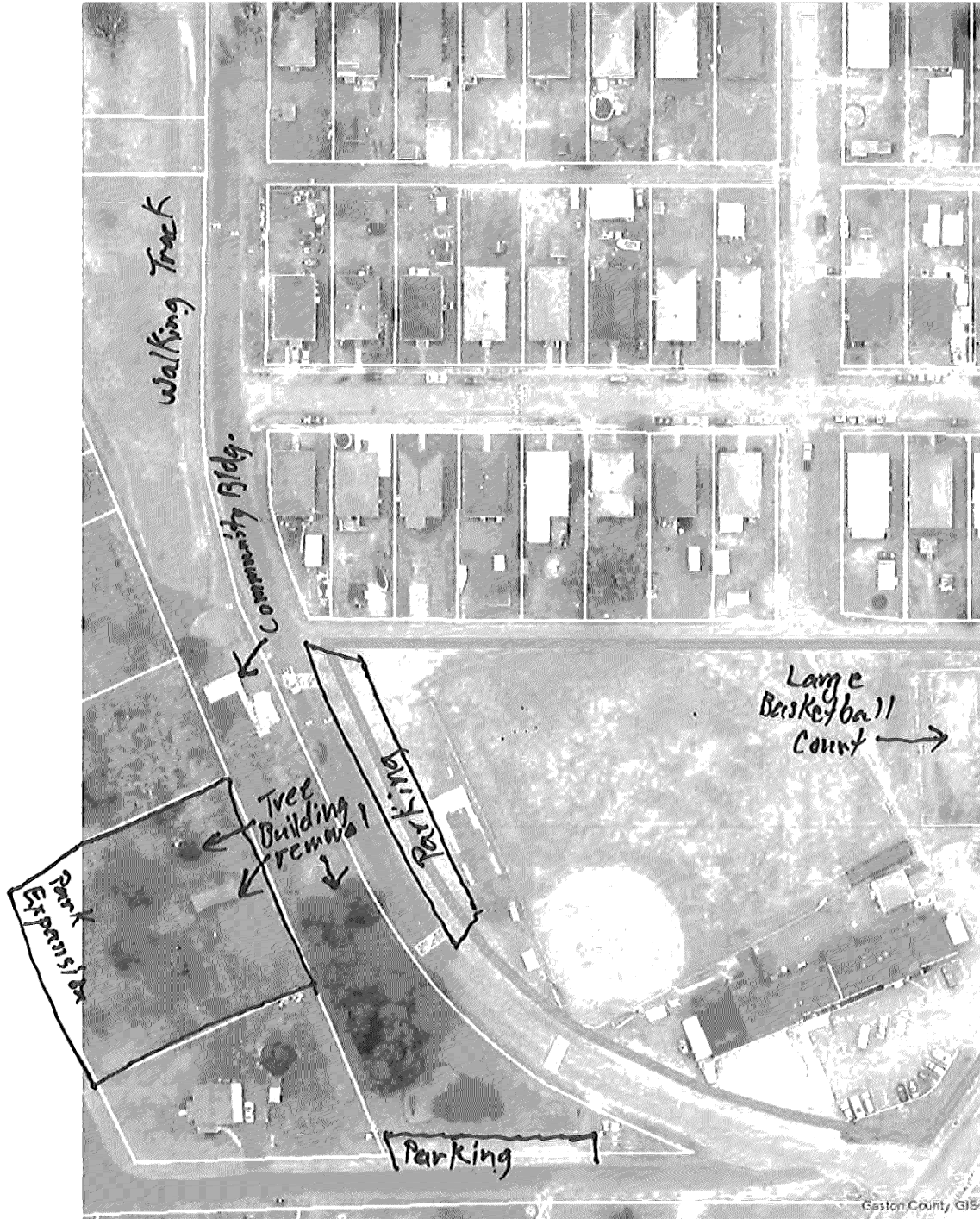
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles L. Graham, Jr.", written in black ink.

Charles L. Graham, Jr.  
Town Coordinator



11/18/2015



Disclaimer: The information provided is not to be considered as a Legal Document or Description. The Map & Parcel Data is believed to be accurate, but Gaston County does not guarantee its accuracy. Values shown are as of January 1, 2015.





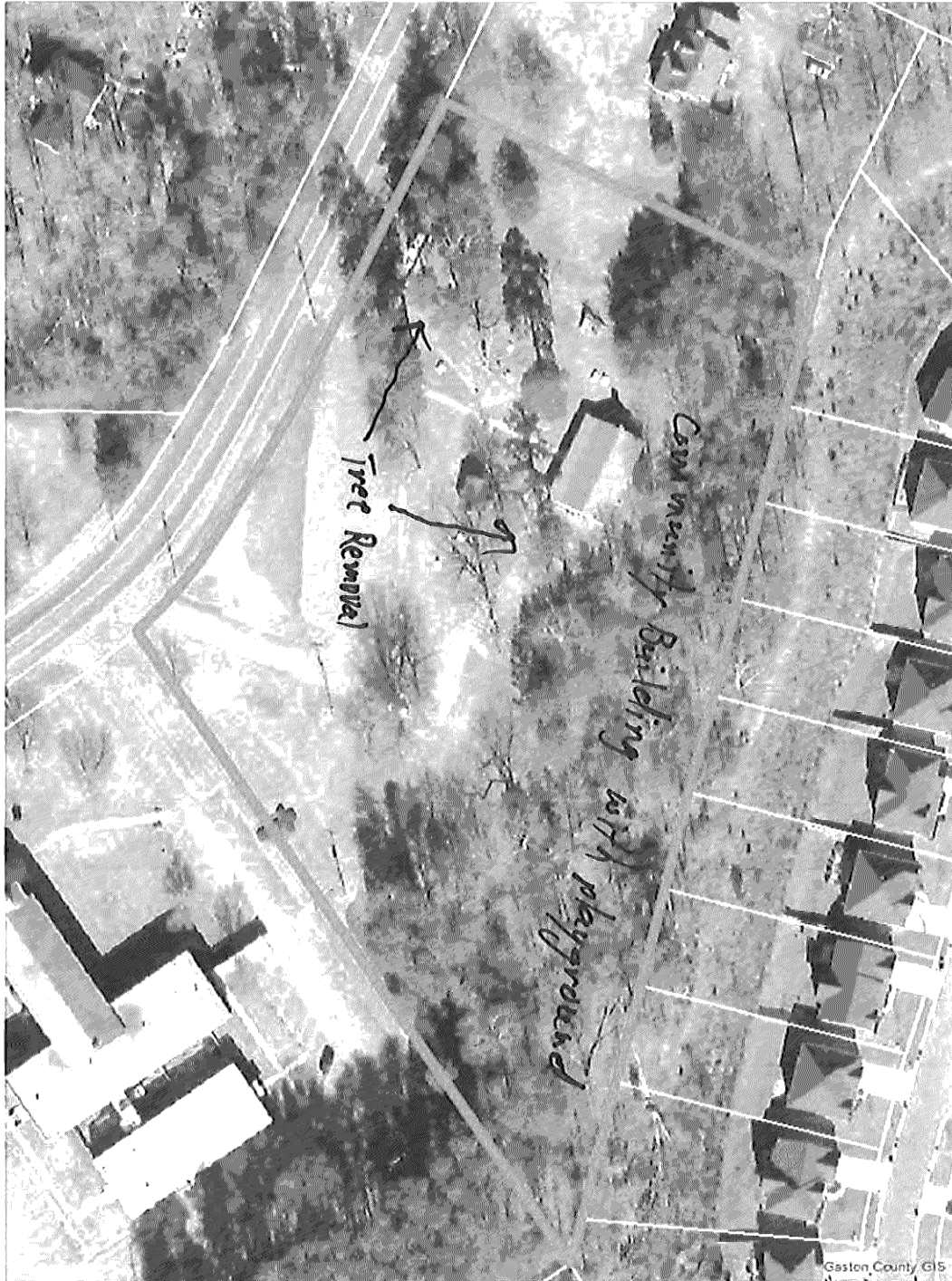
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11/18/2015



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Gaston County Township Grant Application

**Project:** **Smyre Water System Conversion**

**Sponsor:** Commissioner Jason Williams

**Submitted to:** Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
In care of: Eric Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager  
[eric.johnson@gastongov.com](mailto:eric.johnson@gastongov.com)  
128 West Main Avenue  
PO Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053

**Submittal Date:** December 22, 2015

**Applicant:** City of Gastonia  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053

**Contact:** Mike Bynum, Division Manager, TRU Engineering  
Phone: 704-866-6043  
Email: [mikeb@tworiversutilities.com](mailto:mikeb@tworiversutilities.com)

**Township:** Gastonia North

**Amount Requested:** \$227,275

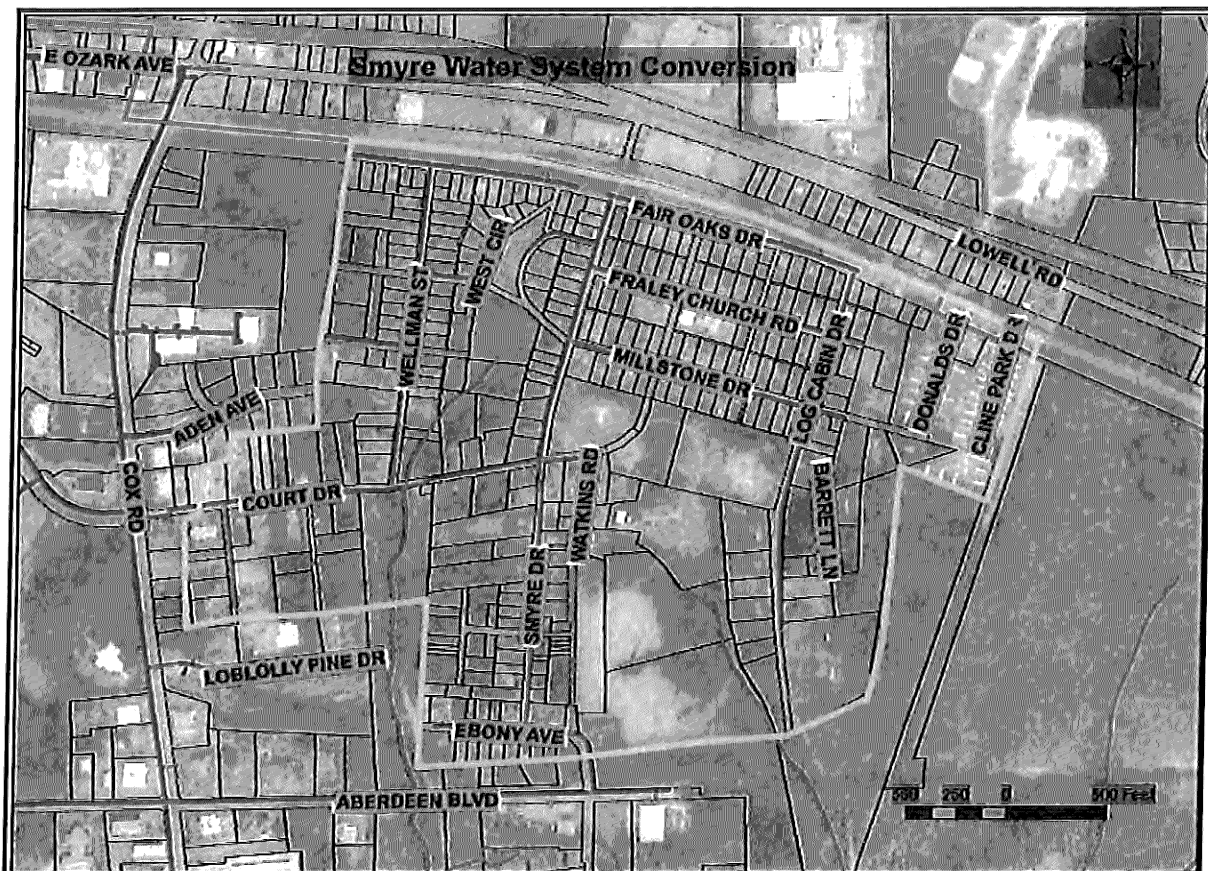
**Project Description:** See attached

**Project Duration:** 2 Years

## Smyre Water System Conversion Project

### Background:

The Smyre neighborhood is an area located primarily within the City limits of the City of Gastonia that originated from the Smyre Manufacturing Mill Village [see area map below]. This area has an old water system that is owned and operated by the Town of Ranlo. However, Smyre was annexed into the City of Gastonia in 1996, and as part of the annexation, new water mains and sewer mains were constructed by Gastonia in the neighborhood to provide basic water and sewer services to the area. The new water lines made City water available to some residents who chose at that time to connect to the City lines. Additionally, other residents that did not have water available chose to petition the City to extend water lines through the Assessment Petition Process. However, some residents in Smyre have remained on the Ranlo water system - mostly due to the cost of the taps and the cost of connections to the newer water service.



The old water system has had numerous leaks and is creating a significant maintenance problem for the Town of Ranlo that impacts the water and sewer operating budget. The Town of Ranlo has requested that the City of Gastonia and its Two River Utilities (TRU) work with them to switch the remainder of their (Ranlo's) customers in the Smyre area over to the TRU System - thereby allowing Ranlo to abandon their old water system. This Project will install some new water lines, water taps, and switch the existing Ranlo customers over to the TRU water system.

**Description:**

Of the 108 remaining Ranlo water customers in Smyre, 69 of the customers have TRU water immediately available and only need to be connected through installation of a tap. Likewise, 13 of the vacant lots have existing TRU water services and also only need to be connected by a tap. Approximately 4300 linear feet of water line extensions will be required to serve the remaining 39 customers, which includes two trailer parks that have master meters on Donald's Drive and Cline Park Drive. The attached map shows the areas to be served by the Project.

The estimated total cost of the Project is \$515,130. The construction cost is estimated at \$429,275. Surveying is currently underway to allow the design of the Project to be completed.

**Project Impact:**

This Project will benefit the 108 customers in Smyre currently served by Ranlo and the remaining residents in Ranlo by providing more reliable water service through connection to newer and larger TRU water lines. These customers will also see their utility bills decrease significantly as well under the TRU rate structure. The Town of Ranlo will also benefit by removing the water loss and maintenance costs of the old water system from the Ranlo utility system.

**Sustainability:**

Once constructed and in operation the maintenance of the new water lines installed as part of this project will be maintained by the City of Gastonia. The water and sewer operations are an enterprise fund and do not operate using tax revenues. No additional funding from Gaston County would be needed to operate and maintain the system. When the Ranlo Customers in Smyre are connected to the Gastonia System, they will be a part of a larger customer base, which will reduce the impacts of maintenance and operations cost on the water rates.

**Match/Leverage:**

The total Project cost is estimated at \$515,130. The City of Gastonia is completing the design of the Project in-house and will provide contract administration and construction observation (CA/CO) during the construction at an estimated cost of \$85,855. The Project cost of \$429,275 has been an obstacle due to the many current capital demands on the TRU System. We currently have \$202,000 budgeted in the Water and Sewer Capital Improvements budget, and the Project would have to be phased over multiple fiscal years to be completed. This will place a significant burden on the Town of Ranlo due to the water loss and maintenance issues of the old Smyre System. The Township Grant will enable the Project to be completed much sooner, thereby reducing the increasing maintenance cost and water loss impact to the Town of Ranlo.

**Job Creation/Economic Development:**

The Town of Ranlo has approximately 108 water customers remaining in Smyre. Two of the customers are trailer parks with master meters. These customers pay the outside water rate (currently \$12.83/1000 gallons) for the Town of Ranlo as compared to the inside Gastonia rate (currently \$2.64 per 1000 gallons). A Ranlo customer in Smyre using 5000 gallons of water per month receives a bill of \$68.79 while the same usage in Gastonia would cost \$25.06. This Project will reduce the monthly water bill for the residents by almost 64% - a significant monthly economic benefit for these County citizens.

The Project will also make water available to some properties in Smyre that do not currently have TRU water available, which increases the possibility of infill development and thereby increases the tax base for Gaston County and the City of Gastonia.

**Quality of Life/Health/Safety:**

The existing Smyre water system is mostly inadequate and undersized 2" or smaller water lines. The conversion of the customers to the Gastonia water system will provide a more reliable water supply from newer, larger water lines and improve the overall water quality. The Project will also add some fire hydrants to the area, which will improve the area's fire protection as well.

**Summary:**

Elimination of the aged and outdated Smyre water system will not only benefit the customers and citizens in that community, but will also save the Town of Ranlo significant dollars lost to leaks and maintenance issues as well. Provision of the County Township funding will enable this Project to be expedited to the benefit of all involved.

A Summary of the cost is as follows:

Requested Funding:	\$227,275
Gastonia Contribution:	
Engineering, CA/CO:	\$85,855
Available Funding:	<u>\$202,000</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$515,130



## TOWN OF RANLO

1624 Spencer Mtn. Rd. ♦ Gastonia, NC 28054

Phone: 704-824-3461 ♦ Fax: 704-824-3423

Email: ranlonc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.ranlo.org



December 22, 2015

Mr. Matt Bernhardt  
Two Rivers Utilities  
P.O. Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053

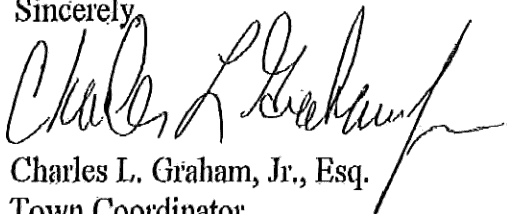
Re: Township Grant Application for Smyre water system

Dear Matt:

It is my understanding that the City of Gastonia is submitting a Township Grant Application to Gaston County in connection with the Smyre Water System. As you and I have discussed, the water system that Ranlo currently operates in that neighborhood is old and in need of replacement, which results in interruptions in service for those residents. However, it is not practical for the Town of Ranlo to continue to supply water to the residents of the Smyre neighborhood in light of the fact that the entire area has now been annexed by the City of Gastonia. It would be of more benefit to your citizens for Gastonia to install an upgraded water system and connect the Smyre Residents to Gastonia's water supply rather than have Ranlo continue to maintain an old, expensive to operate, system in order to supply your citizens.

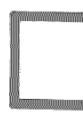
You have indicated it would take you two to three years to finance this project through your CIP. The grant funds you are applying for would allow for the entire system to be replaced more quickly. Therefore, I would like to express the Town of Ranlo's support for your Township Grant Application. I believe that your citizens living in the Smyre neighborhood would be better served if they were connected directly to your water system. Ranlo would benefit by allowing us to abandon our old system in that neighborhood and redirect funds used to maintain that system to the maintenance of the system we operate for the citizens of Ranlo.

Sincerely,

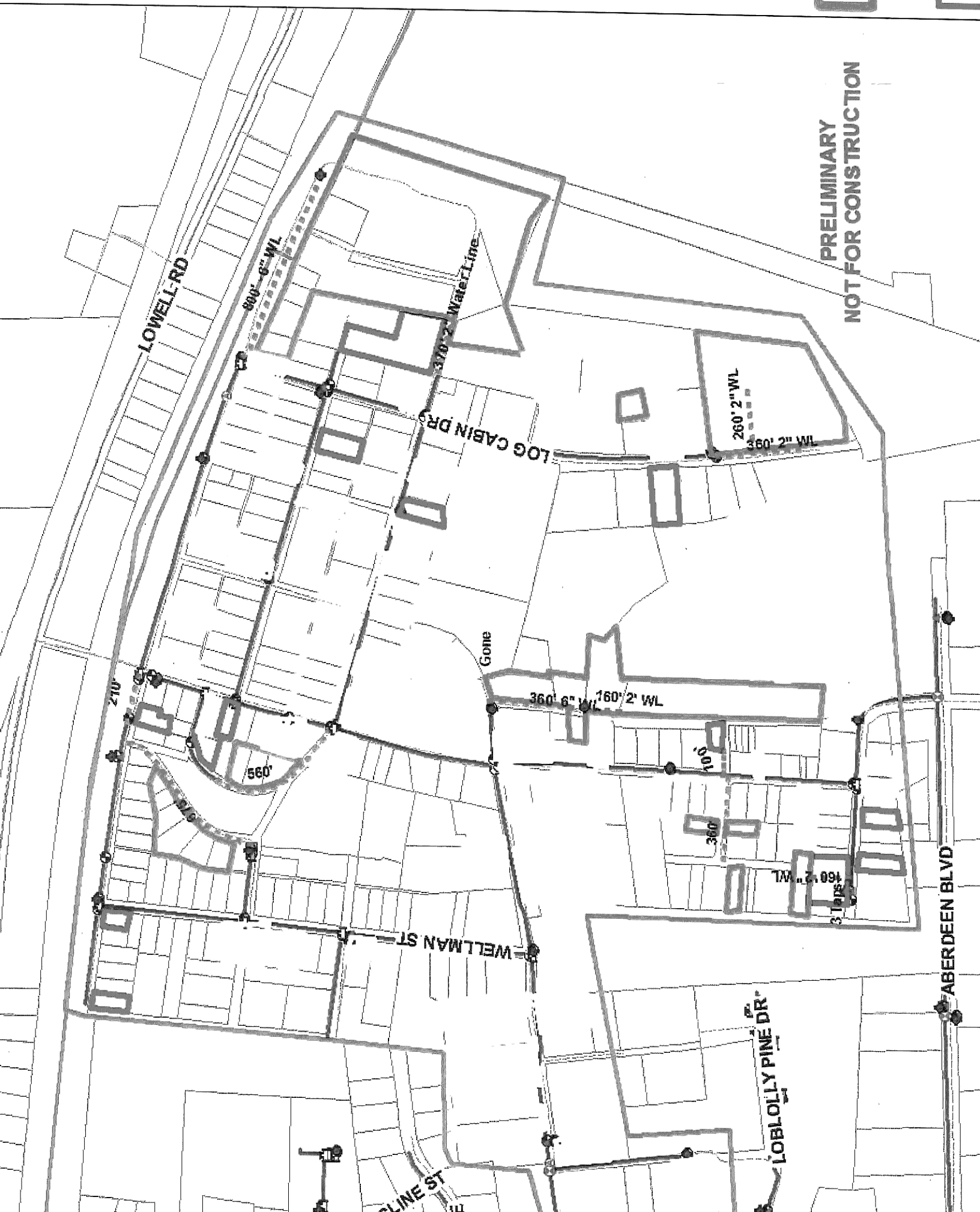


Charles L. Graham, Jr., Esq.  
Town Coordinator





**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**





Gaston County Board of Commissioners Township Grant Proposal  
Cover Sheet

**Project:** Spray-ground / Splash pad addition at Erwin Park Community Center

**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Jason Williams

**Applicant:** City of Gastonia Parks & Recreation  
C/O Chuck Dellinger, Director  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
Phone: (704) 866-6838  
Email: chuckd@cityofgastonia.com  
Tax ID #: 56-6000227

**Township:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$300,000

**Project Description:** The requested grant funding is for new construction of a spray-ground / splash pad adjacent to the existing pool and playground area at the Erwin Park Community Center (913 N. Pryor Street) that is similar in size and amenity features as the existing spray-ground the City operates at Lineberger Park. (please see attached photo)

**Duration of the Project:** The spray-ground will be open to the public and operate during the warmer months of the year. With general and routine maintenance, the expected useful life of this type of apparatus is more than 20 years.



## Justification for the Project

### Erwin Park Community Center Spray-ground

Erwin Park and Community Center opened in 1961 on 15 acres in the Highland neighborhood as the City's first public recreation center. The Center was named in honor of Dr. Herbert Erwin. Dr. Erwin was Gaston County's first African-American physician and was well known as an advocate for youth sports and recreation opportunities. The center's indoor facilities include a full size gymnasium, game room, meeting room, kitchen, lobby & staff offices. The park's outdoor facilities include a swimming pool, multi-purpose ball field, basketball court, playground, large picnic shelter, lighted walking track and 4 tennis courts. As a joint collaboration between the City of Gastonia's Parks & Recreation and Community Development Departments and Gaston County Public Library a branch library was added to the campus in 1990.

The Erwin Community Center serves the north-central section of Gastonia with its primary focus on the Highland district and surrounding neighborhoods. Although a majority of the Center's nearly 70,000 yearly participants come from the immediate area, many come from other sections of the city and county to utilize the facility and participate in the many programs offered.

A spray-ground would be a wonderful addition to the existing facilities at Erwin and would fit into the City's future plans to uplift the outdoor amenities to include renovating the basketball court and picnic shelter, resurfacing 2 tennis courts and converting 2 to other uses, and adding sidewalks along sections of Pryor and Norment Streets. If this project is granted the City will provide all the necessary funding required to adequately and safely maintain the facility to proper standards throughout the duration of its useful life. The City will also provide all utilities and commit to full ownership of the added amenity.

As another commitment to the project and to help with leveraging and matching a portion of the County's generous gift, the City will provide in-house services to include engineering, planning, site preparation, project management and any additional utility needs.

The addition of a spray-ground at Erwin Community Center will create a positive impact and enhance the quality of life of a large number of underserved populous of Gaston County by providing another wholesome outdoor recreational activity that the entire family can enjoy. This new amenity will also help create a synergy for water activities and lead to more interest and use of the existing pool and potentially steer more participants to our learn to swim program. Obesity is a major health concern within the county. This new and exciting outdoor facility will play a major factor in providing children and adults with more opportunities to be more physically active while having fun.





Gaston County Board of Commissioners Township Grant Proposal  
Cover Sheet

**Project:** Playground addition for Smyre Millennium Park

**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Jason Williams

**Applicant:** City of Gastonia Parks & Recreation  
C/O Chuck Dellinger, Director  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
Phone: (704) 866-6838  
Email: chuckd@cityofgastonia.com  
Tax ID #: 56-6000227

**Township:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$75,000

**Project Description:** The requested grant funding is for new construction of a playground structure at Smyre Millennium Park (2851 Millstone Drive) that is similar in size and amenity features as the existing playground structure the City operates at Optimist Park. (please see attached photo)

**Duration of the Project:** The playground will be open to the public during park hours of operation throughout the year. With general and routine maintenance, the expected useful life of this type of apparatus is more than 20 years.



## Justification for the Project

### Smyre Millennium Park Playground

Smyre Millennium Park opened in 2000 and sits on 1.71 acres in the northeastern section of Gastonia. Acquiring the land to build this park was made possible through the donation of the property to the City by Carolina Mills who owned and operated the mill formally known as A.M. Smyre Manufacturing Company. The park's amenities include a ¼ mile walking trail, picnic shelter, horseshoe court, small playground and benches. A NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant of approximately \$200,000 was awarded to help fund the project. The park and Smyre Village revitalization was part of a national initiative to rebuild communities and received the designation known as a "Millennium Community" by the *White House Millennium Council* in 1999.

The Smyre Millennium Park primarily serves the Smyre Village Community of more than 400 homes. Extended users come from nearby neighborhoods and residents of Ranlo and Lowell.

A playground structure would be a wonderful addition to the existing facilities at Smyre Millennium Park. If this project is granted the City will provide all the necessary funding required to adequately and safely maintain the facility to proper standards throughout the duration of its useful life. The City will also provide all utilities and commit to full ownership of the added amenity.

As another commitment to the project and to help with leveraging and matching a portion of the County's generous gift, the City will provide in-house services to include engineering, planning, site preparation, project management and any additional utility needs.

The addition of a playground structure at Smyre Millennium Park will add another positive public impact to the park and the amenity will continue the enhancement to the quality of life to Smyre Village and surrounding community. It will provide another wholesome outdoor recreational activity that all families in the community can enjoy. Obesity is a major health concern within the county. This new and exciting outdoor facility will play a major factor in providing children and adults with more opportunities to be more physically active while having fun.







Gaston County Board of Commissioners Township Grant Proposal  
Cover Sheet

**Project:** Playground addition for I.C. Falls Park

**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Jason Williams

**Applicant:** City of Gastonia Parks & Recreation  
C/O Chuck Dellinger, Director  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
Phone: (704) 866-6838  
Email: chuckd@cityofgastonia.com  
Tax ID #: 56-6000227

**Township:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$75,000

**Project Description:** The requested grant funding is for new construction of a playground structure at I.C. Falls Park (1353 Bradford Heights Road) that is similar in size and amenity features as the existing playground structure the City operates at Optimist Park. (please see attached photo)

**Duration of the Project:** The playground will be open to the public during park hours of operation throughout the year. With general and routine maintenance, the expected useful life of this type of apparatus is more than 20 years.



## Justification for the Project

### I.C. Falls Park Playground

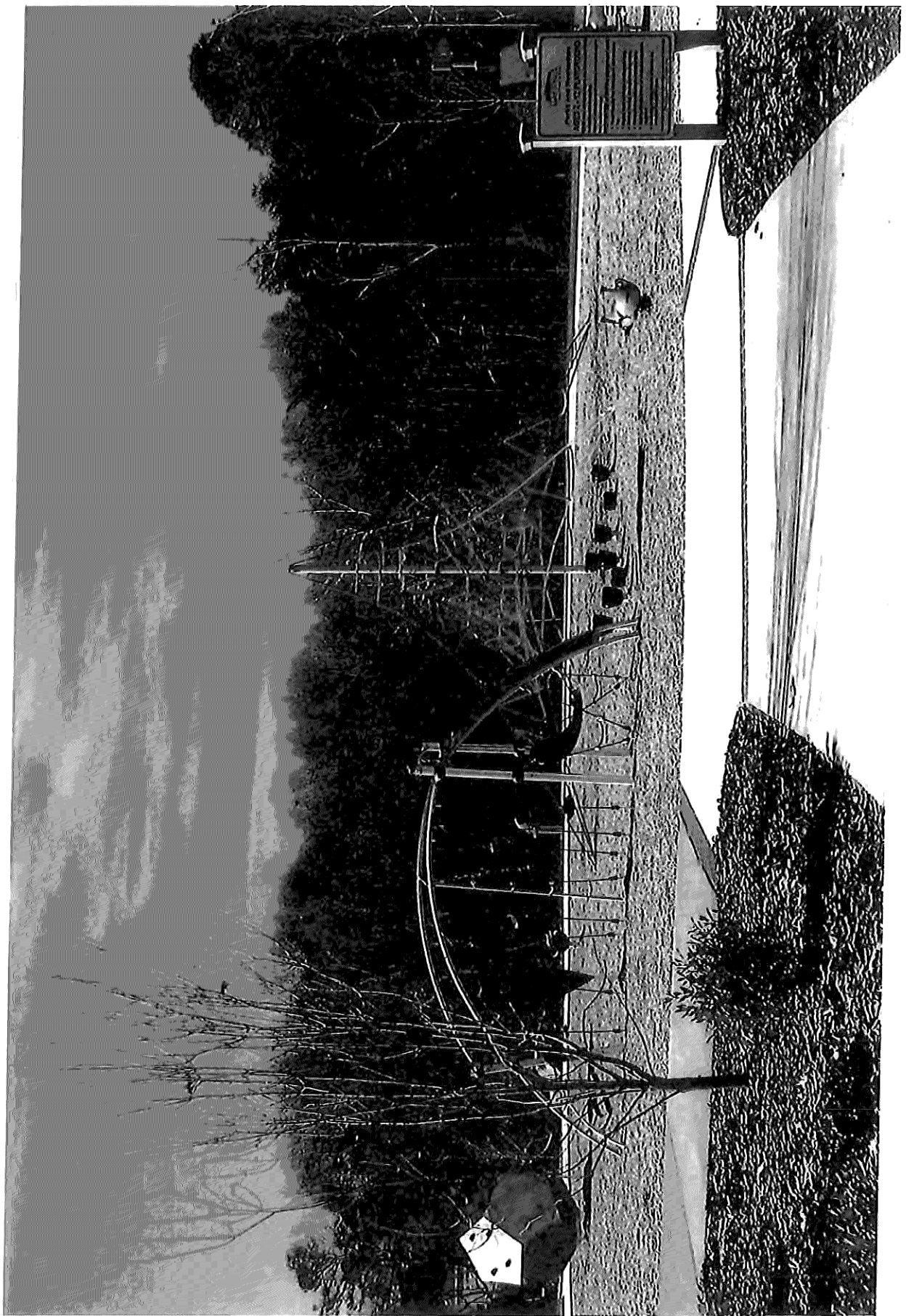
I.C. Falls Park was originally a school playground and open space area for Bradford Heights Elementary School located in southeast Gastonia. When the school was closed and the building converted to Gaston County School office and special needs space in the early 1980's a community group led by Mr. I.C. Falls petitioned Gaston County Schools to allow for the dedication of the 3 plus acres of open space to the City of Gastonia to be used as a neighborhood park. The land was dedicated to the City and originally named the Bradford Heights Community Park, before being named for Mr. Falls in the late 1980's. Park amenities include a ½ basketball court, individual playground equipment pieces, small picnic shelter, multi-purpose ball field and short walking track.

The I.C. Falls Park primarily serves the Bradford Heights Community. It also serves as an outdoor activity site for St. John's Baptist Church which is a large church in the community.

A playground structure would be a wonderful addition to the existing facilities at I.C. Falls Park. If this project is granted the City will provide all the necessary funding required to adequately and safely maintain the facility to proper standards throughout the duration of its useful life. The City will also provide all utilities and commit to full ownership of the added amenity.

As another commitment to the project and to help with leveraging and matching a portion of the County's generous gift, the City will provide in-house services to include engineering, planning, site preparation, project management and any additional utility needs.

The addition of a playground structure at I.C. Falls Park will add another positive public impact to the park and the amenity will continue the enhancement to the quality of life to Bradford Heights and surrounding community. It will provide another wholesome outdoor recreational activity that all families in the community can enjoy. Obesity is a major health concern within the county. This new and exciting outdoor facility will play a major factor in providing children and adults with more opportunities to be more physically active while having fun.



## Gaston County Township Grant Application

**Project:** Gaston Farmers Market Expansion

**Sponsor:** Commissioner Jason Williams

**Submitted to:** Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
In care of: Eric Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager  
[eric.johnson@gastongov.com](mailto:eric.johnson@gastongov.com)  
128 West Main Avenue  
PO Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053

**Submittal Date:** December 22, 2015

**Applicant:** City of Gastonia  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, NC 28053

**Contact:** Vincent Wong, City of Gastonia  
Phone: 704-866-6756  
Email: [vincentw@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:vincentw@cityofgastonia.com)

Pat Johnson, City of Gastonia  
Phone: 704-866-6907  
Email: [patj@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:patj@cityofgastonia.com)

**Township:** Gastonia

**Amount Requested:** \$55,000

**Project Description:** The goal of the Farmer's is to produce the very best product and to provide their customers the freshest produce that can be found. Usually sold within 24 hours of being harvested, fruits and vegetables produced locally are fresher and taste better than produce which has been shipped for a long period of time. Statistics show that produce purchased in supermarkets may have been shipped from distant states and countries traveling an average of 1,300 miles for as many as 7 to 14 days. When eaten at the height of ripeness, one reaps the benefits of the exceptional flavor and nutrients of the produce.

*We are requesting the \$55,000 to install a 50 foot pole shed to attract new vendors and citizens to the market along with required additional paving to provide handicap accessibility and shed foundation. The 50' pole shed has the ability to increase our vendor capacity by 1/3 creating a diverse market that can only help us attract new customer/citizens to enjoy the wonderful food and produce we currently have for sale. Grown locally and bought locally for our citizens to enjoy! The Farmer's market has been very successful throughout the years providing this grant would allow them continued growth and success for many more years. Also, depending on the timing of the grant award the new pole shed could be open for the beginning of the spring selling season. The City of Gastonia helps with maintenance and minor improvements to the market from year to year, with this grant the City will provide in-kind services from various City departments to help with design, possible construction and maintenance to keep the project at a reasonable budget.*

Supporting local Farmer's markets not only financially benefits the farmer but the community as well. Today's farmer receives less than 10 cents of the retail food dollar. When farmers sell directly to the consumer, the middleman is eliminated thus producing a higher profit for the farmer. The farmer then circulates his profits throughout the community with local merchants creating a cycle that helps to build a strong local economy. Farmer's markets ensures healthier and better quality food. Studies prove that fresh produce loses nutrients quickly. Produce purchased locally was probably picked within the past day or two and provides crispy, sweet and flavorful food. Eating healthy, locally grown food not only strengthens your family but your community as well. Food that is shipped long distances is bred for a longer shelf life, not for taste. Local food and produce helps safeguard your health. Knowing where your food originates and how it is grown enables you to choose safe food. Buy food from local farmers you trust.

**Brief History:** The Farmers market started in the 1970's and is continuing to grow stronger each year. The current building was dedicated on May 6, 1995. The Farmer's market is operated by the Gaston County Farmer's Association, a nonprofit organization. They pay the manager and they own all of the equipment. They also pay for utilities and garbage removal. On non-Farmer's market selling days the building can be used by outside organizations.

**Project Duration:** 3-6 months

**Attachments:** Farmer's Market Map  
Pole Shed Construction Details

# **CRESCENT** Crescent Metal Structures, Inc.

914 Moose Street, Suite E • Gastonia, NC 28056 • Phone 704-824-2009 • Fax 704-824-2049

July 2, 2015

Keep Gastonia Beautiful  
Mrs. Pat Johnson, Administrator  
150 South York Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

**REFERENCE: GASTONIA FARMER'S MARKET FREESTANDING POLE BUILDING PRELIMINARY SKETCHES LABELED SHEETS:**

- PB-100
- PB-200
- PB-300
- PB-400

**AS PREPARED BY CRESCENT STRUCTURES, INC. AND DATED 7/2/15 (SEE ATTACHED)**

## **PROPOSAL**

### **BUILDING:**

1. One (1) 14'x50'x10' pre-engineered post-steel building, clear span with gabled roof design
2. Roof 4:12 pitch – Standard steel roof sheets utilizing long-life fasteners (29 gage)
3. This building shall be a roof only structure – all walls shall remain open and unsheeted
4. Classic rib steel panels shall be the roof sheeting (standard color)
5. Building shall conform to North Carolina Building Code loading requirements

### **ACCESSORIES:**

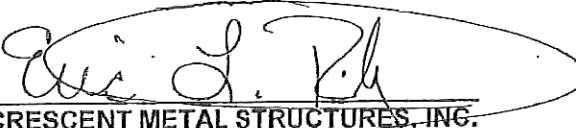
1. Premium gutters and downspouts
2. Does not include any insulation

### **DRAWINGS: Architectural and Engineering**

1. Cover Sheet and Drawing Index
2. Life Safety Plan and Appendix B
3. Floor Plan and Details
4. Exterior Elevations

### **NOTES:**

1. Does not include water or sewer taps, backflow preventer or any other devices required by regulatory agencies unless otherwise noted.
2. All zoning permit, grading permit and building permit fees by Customer
3. Dump trailer and porta-let to be provided on site during construction by Crescent Metal Structures, Inc. for scope of work as specified within this proposal only
4. Does not include any glass, concrete, masonry, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, site preparation or interior upfit
5. Does not include security system, fire alarm system, sprinkler system, phone wiring, stripping and waxing of VCT, fire extinguishers, knox box, dumpster enclosures or any underground or overhead utility installation or relocation

  
**CRESCENT METAL STRUCTURES, INC.**  
Eric L. Riley, Vice President

# GABLE CROSS SECTION

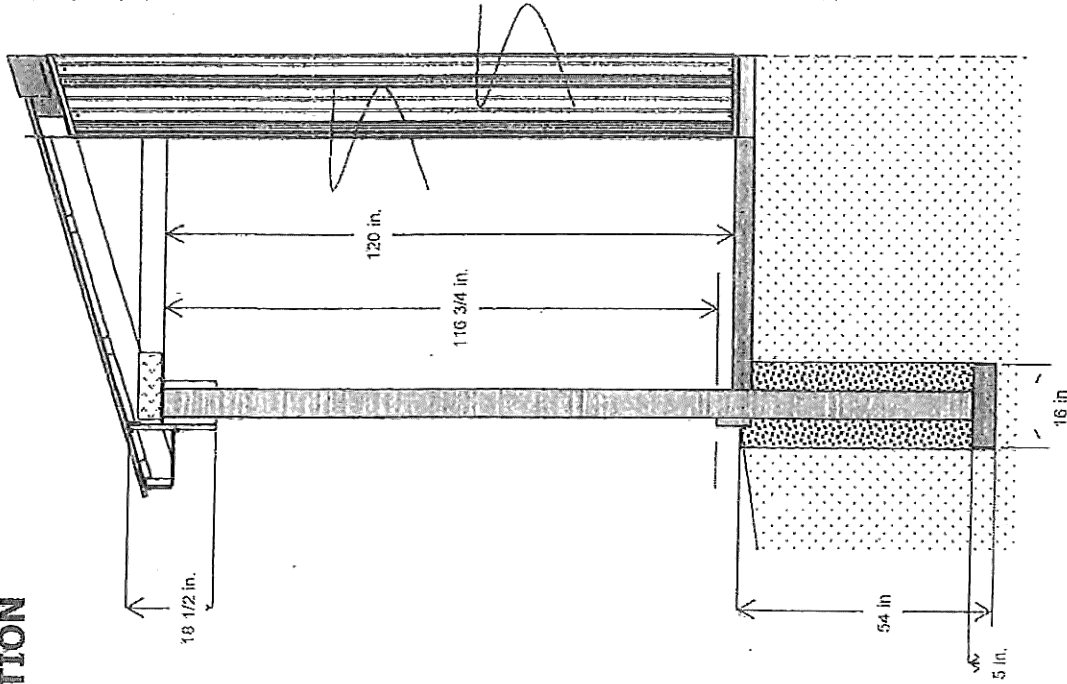
ROOF LAYER 1: PLY-FOIL P F S 4125 1/4 IN X 72 IN X 120 FT  
 ROOF LAYER 2: BURNISHED SLATE CLASSIC RIB STEEL PANEL

PURLINS: 2 X 4 CONSTRUCTION GRADE FASTENED LAYING FLAT  
 SUB FACIA: 2 X 6 CONSTRUCTION GRADE  
 FACIA COVERING/UNDEREAVE: BURNISHED SLATE  
 SOFFIT 12 IN X 10 FT 6 IN

CORNER POSTS: TREATED 6 X 6  
 INTERMEDIATE POSTS: TREATED 6 X 6 SPACING 12.5 FT O.C.  
 EXTERIOR CARRIER: CONSTRUCTION GRADE 2 X 12  
 INTERIOR CARRIER: CONSTRUCTION GRADE 2 X 12  
 EXTERIOR WALL GIRTS: CONSTRUCTION GRADE 2 X 4  
 WALL LAYER 1: LIGHT STONE CLASSIC RIB STEEL PANEL

EXTERIOR SKIRT BOARD: TREATED 2 X 8  
 SIDING BEGINS 2 5/8 IN. BELOW THE TOP OF SKIRT BOARD  
 EARTH GRADE BEGINS 5 IN. BELOW THE TOP OF SKIRT BOARD

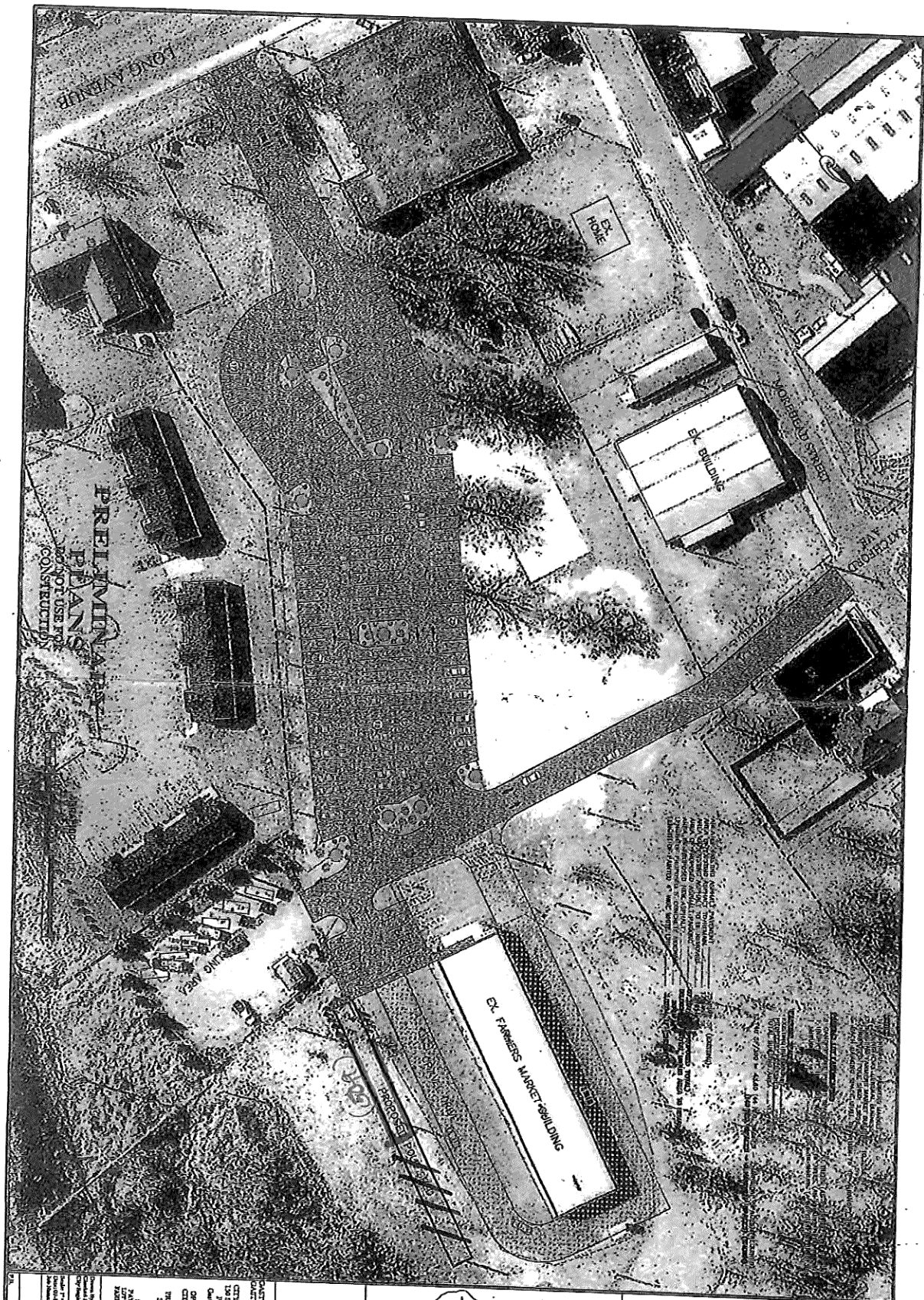
4/12 PITCH TRUSS SYSTEM WITH A STANDARD HEEL  
 (HEEL HEIGHT: 0'-5"-12" OR 5 3/4 IN.)  
 TRUSS SPACING: 48 IN. O.C.  
 TRUSS LOADING INFORMATION:  
 T/C/DL/TCDL/BCLL/BODL - 47-7-0-10  
 TOTAL TRUSS LOADING = 64 P.S.F.  
 BRACE PER TRUSS MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS



INTERIOR FINISHED FLOOR HT. WILL BE 3 1/4 IN. BELOW THE TOP OF THE SKIRT BOARD  
 4 IN. CONCRETE FLOOR W/STRUCTURAL STRENGTH - 3500 P.S.I.  
 UNDISTURBED SOIL OR COMPACTED SAND FILL  
 BACKFILL HOLE WITH SAND/GRAVEL FILL & COMPACT  
 PIER FOOTING. PRECAST 5000 P.S.I. 16 IN. X WIDE 5 IN. THICK CONCRETE PAD

CRESCENT METAL STRUCTURES, INC.  
 914 Moose St. Suite E  
 Gastonia, NC 28056

7/2/15



PRELIMINARY PLANS  
 NOT FOR USE FOR  
 CONSTRUCTION



**PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS**  
**PROPOSED PAVED PARKING LOT**  
 OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER  
 133 SOUTH YORK STREET - GASTONIA, NC 28028 PHONE: 704-555-5343

DIVISION OF PLANNING  
 CITY OF GASTONIA  
 133 SOUTH YORK STREET  
 GASTONIA, NC 28028

DATE: 11/15/11  
 DRAWN BY: [Name]  
 CHECKED BY: [Name]





**DreamCenter**  
OF GASTON COUNTY

2782 Fairview Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
(704) 396-6925

[dreamcentergastoncounty.com](http://dreamcentergastoncounty.com)

**Grant Application for  
Gaston County Grant**

**December 2015**

**Amount Requested**

**\$150,000**

## **Description of Proposed Program**

The Dream Center of Gaston County is committed to addressing the physical, educational, and spiritual needs of impoverished families, to break the cycle of dependency, both government assistance dependency and substance abuse, through education.

The **Dream Center Academy** is a college access mission of the Dream Center of Gaston County that will empower students in Gaston County:

to **LEAD** - to **SUCCEED** - to **SERVE**

1. By developing real world leadership experiences and skills.
2. Through academic excellence and perseverance.
3. By actively contributing to the world around them.

## **What is the Dream Center Academy?**

The DCA is a College Access Program for Title 1 students in Gaston County Schools. DCA will take 50 6<sup>th</sup> grade students per school year beginning in 2016 and add 50 more 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2017 and each year beyond. In 6 years, the Dream Center Academy will have 400 students in the program from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The DCA will involve **daily after school tutoring** with credentialed teachers and a **hot meal** for the students. The tutoring will be from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.

The DCA will take students on **field trips** to Washington DC, New York City, and over 30 Colleges and Universities.

The DCA's goal is to **equip** young men and women that will be the future leaders of Gaston County through educational, leadership, and character development.

## **Why should Gaston County give the Dream Center a Grant?**

The DCA has a **\$200,000 challenge grant** from the David Belk Cannon Foundation to begin the Dream Center Academy. The grant from Gaston County would be matched and would allow the DCA to begin IMMEDIATELY! The David Belk Cannon Foundation has asked that the Dream Center raise \$200,000 and then they will release the \$200,000 challenge grant.

The Dream Center Academy will be a **unique** program in Gaston County that is very measurable and will allow the citizens of Gaston County to be able to tangibly track the benefits of the \$150,000 investment. This project can be measured every 9 weeks and will be tracked by Gaston County Schools to ensure the viability of the program.

The DCA has **partnered with Gaston County Schools** to provide a one of a kind program that will give our students a world class mentoring program that will see these children reach their God given potential.

**AS SOON AS DCA GETS THE GASTON COUNTY GRANT, WE WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING!**

Our first step will be to hire a director and begin to meet with prospective students and their families to prepare the students for the DCA beginning in August 2016.

## **Need for the Program**

Located in the western part of Gaston County, the Dream Center is surrounded by neighborhoods that struggle with issues that face poverty stricken families. Within a three-mile radius of the Dream Center of Gaston County there are approximately 27,000 residents, **28%** of which live below the poverty level, **40%** are single mothers, **39%** do not have a high school diploma or GED, and **25%** are concerned about basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. These factors lead to issues with higher crime rates, lower parental participation, less support for school age children, and limited community resources.

A report released in 2014 by National Student Clearinghouse, which examined data from more than 3.5 million high school graduates, found that poverty remains a more important indicator of whether a student will go to college than high school demographics or location.

Hundreds of students in Gaston County that are born into poverty dream of what it would be like to succeed in school and wonder if they would ever be able to attend any college. The Dream Center Academy is an opportunity for students to get the tools they need to succeed in high school and ultimately graduate from college. Our goal is to help these students reach their potential and become leaders in our community.

The Dream Center Academy wants to raise high character and high integrity students who believe in the importance of owning their own education while developing a deeper understanding of their opportunity to make a difference in the world.

## **Objectives and Purposes of the Program**

The Dream Center Academy model is based on an already extremely successful program in Durham, NC – Student U. The Durham program has seen their students grow and succeed since its inception in 2007. 100% of Student U's students have graduated from high school and 97% have gone on to attend college. Also when compared to other low-income Durham students the Student U's students outperformed on End of Grade testing. We believe we can have these great results here in Gaston County with the implementation of the Dream Center Academy.

## **How the Objectives and Programs will be met**

The Dream Center of Gaston County is a community-based facility located at 2782 Fairview Drive in Gastonia, NC. The Dream Center Academy will work closely with Gaston County Schools to **identify the students** in most need for the program and to recommend qualified teachers and staff to ensure the students receive the highest quality education.

The Academy will consist of the following:

### **Year-Round Support:**

#### **1. Daily After-School Program**

Students receive two hours of structured support and enrichment every school day during the year at Dream Center Academy's Year Round Program. Students begin their after-school day with a healthy snack and spend time connecting with their peers. Students then move to Study Skills where they complete their homework and

build healthy study habits. Students end their day in enrichment clubs focused on arts, STEM, leadership, character building, and/or academic intervention.

## **2. Out-of-School Support**

Community Days allow students, families, and teachers to reconnect with the DCA community and develop a service minded character. Every 3 Week Phone Calls and Quarterly Parent Conferences between Year Round Staff and families ensure that students are receiving the support they need to become their best selves.

*When necessary DCA's School Social Worker provides students and families with social and emotional support.*

### **Summer Enrichment:**

Students participate in a **five-week academic enrichment program** during the summer. Students receive project based hands-on, small group instruction. Students take core classes in **reading, math, and science**. They also will select from various different elective courses. The curriculum taught is designed using Common Core standards and written by professional education professionals. College students serve as teachers with the guidance of experienced mentor teachers.

The Dream Center Academy values "outside of the classroom" learning experiences for students. During the summer program students take weekly field trips to local colleges and community organizations. All students participate in an extended field trip where they travel outside of Gaston County to connect curriculum to the real world.

The Dream Center Academy teachers are matched with a small group of students to serve as their advisor. Teachers call the student's families once a week and write an end of summer evaluation for the students. The goal is to form a strong bond with the students and their families which will continue throughout the school year.

### **Organizational Information**

The Dream Center of Gaston County was established in 2013, based on a model used by more than 150 Dream Centers located throughout the United States. The organizational model has been **proven** to provide a positive impact on **breaking the cycle of poverty** in economically distressed and high crime neighborhoods across the country. We are partnering with local agencies such as **Crisis Pregnancy Center, Gaston College, As One Ministries, CaroMont Health, and Gaston County Schools** to provide programs and services on a daily and weekly basis. The Dream Center of Gaston County has quickly become a premier resource for families seeking a **helping hand** rather than a handout to empower their families to achieve higher goals.

Our mission is to empower families to achieve self-sufficiency through programs that focus on three key objectives: education, character development, and spiritual mentoring.

***Together we can make a difference in our community!***

CaroMont



Douglas R. Lockett, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer

November 10, 2015

Pastor Dickie Spargo  
Bethlehem Church  
3100 Bethlehem Church St  
Gastonia, NC 28056

Dear Dickie:

I wanted to put into writing my thoughts on why I support the Dream Center and the programs it provides. It is important for me to do this, because I am approached to support a number of worthwhile causes in our community but have to say the Dream Center and the Dream Center Academy is something that just resonated with me. Why? Knowing the cycle of generational poverty, brought on by things like defeatism, learned helplessness and parenting issues, the Dream Center and Dream Center Academy is the most practical investment I can think of to break this cycle and get ACTUAL results.

Please know that I am willing to share the work this organization is doing with anyone who will grant me the time to hear about it. The Dream Center Academy has my support. I hope to be of good use to the organization and its needs in the future.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas R. Lockett".

Douglas R. Lockett, FACHE  
President and CEO



**Gaston County Schools**  
*shaping our future*

**W. Jeffrey Booker**  
Superintendent

Central Administrative Office  
943 Osceola Street  
P. O. Box 1397  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
704-866-6100  
FAX 704-866-6175

Department of  
Exceptional Children  
215 West Third Avenue  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
704-866-6160  
FAX 704-866-6191

Division of  
Resource Management  
1351 Bradford Heights Road  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-866-6129  
FAX 704-866-6193

School Nutrition Programs  
500 Reid Street  
Lowell, NC 28098  
704-824-8423  
FAX 704-824-8442

Staff Development Center  
240 Eighth Avenue  
Cramerton, NC 28032  
704-824-2828  
FAX 704-824-4918

Teacher Resource Center  
366 W. Garrison Boulevard  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
704-866-6174  
FAX 704-866-6194

December 15, 2015

Pastor Dickie Spargo  
Bethlehem Church  
3100 Bethlehem Church St  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28056

Dear Dickie:

It is a distinct pleasure to write a letter of support for the Dream Center.

As I reflected on the evolution of the Dream Center, I came to the realization that it has been more than three years since Pastor Spargo visited me with an idea to reach a hurting area of our community. In my career I have seen a lot of well-intentioned ideas that are unable to make it past the concept stage. The Dream Center became a reality that is impacting lives.

The Dream Center has held numerous outreach events including hosting parenting classes, and special events such as a career fairs, dressing for success, prom dress giveaways and a "day of weddings."

Without hesitation, the Dream Center receives my highest recommendation for your consideration. I encourage you to visit and experience the ministry work for yourself; but heed this word of caution, you will want to become an active participant in the work of this dynamic organization.

Should you need additional information, please contact me by calling (704) 866-6111.

Sincerely,

**W. Jeffrey Booker**  
Superintendent of Schools

The David Belk Cannon Foundation  
PO Box 3737  
Gastonia, NC 28054

May 18, 2015

The Reverend Dickie Spargo  
Bethlehem Church  
3100 Bethlehem Church Road  
Gastonia, NC 28056

Dear Dickie:

This letter confirms a David Belk Cannon Foundation challenge grant of \$200,000 for the Dream Center Academy. This challenge grant is based upon the Dream Center Academy's raising an additional \$200,000 in cash and/or pledges.

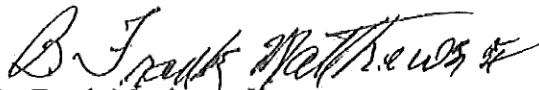
THE DAVID BELK CANNON ACADEMY AT THE DREAM CENTER would certainly be satisfactory with our Board.

Please advise when you have completed your campaign. We will then forward our check.

Once again, thank you for your strong influence in bringing people into the Christian community.

Sincerely,

THE DAVID BELK CANNON FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Frank Matthews, II". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

B. Frank Matthews, II  
Chairman

City of Lowell

Application for Gaston County Township Grant

Poston Park Sidewalk Connector

December 2015

1. Project Name: Poston Park Sidewalk Connector
2. Sponsoring Commissioner: Mickey Price and Jason Williams
3. Applicant Information:
  - A. Organization City of Lowell
  - B. Contact Information  
Address: City of Lowell  
101 West First Street  
Lowell, NC 20898  
Phone: (704) 824-3518
  - C. Contact Person: Al Greene, City Manager
4. Township Name Gaston North and South Point
5. Amount Requested \$152,000
6. Project Description

This project would extend sidewalk northward along Spencer Mountain Road from the terminus of the existing sidewalk at the Lowell City Limits to the entrance of Poston Park. This sidewalk interconnection will provide significant local and county-wide benefit by improving pedestrian access between Poston Park and the City of Lowell. The extension will also provide continuous pedestrian access from Post Park to the Carolina Thread Trail on the South Fork of the Catawba River.

Currently pedestrian access is extremely limited by the lack of connectivity. Spencer Mountain Road is a busy route with poor visibility and no pedestrian amenities. While it is a very short distance from the population center in Lowell to Poston Park, the lack of sidewalk for the short distance between the City Limits and the entrance to Poston Park discourages pedestrians, including school-aged children, from visiting the park. Lowell has a large population of walkers and runners who would enjoy including Poston Park on their route if access could be improved.



The City of Lowell undertook the extension of sidewalk within Town up to the northern City Limits at a cost of \$238,000. This was done with encouragement and support of county officials and with the commitment from the County that funding would be pursued by the County to connect the sidewalk through the small section of unincorporated area to the entrance to Poston Park. The County has displayed genuine interest in causing this interconnection, however to date a funding source has not been identified and the interconnection has not been made.

The extension would involve the construction of approximately 300 linear feet of curb and gutter and sidewalk with associated storm drainage, to provide a transition to County-owned property. Once the project transitions off of NCDOT right-of-way and onto County property, it will continue for approximately 1,000 more feet without the NCDOT required curb and gutter with drainage. The remaining 1,000 foot section will require clearing and grubbing and the installation of sidewalk. The engineering firm of Robinson and Sawyer has estimated that the total cost to construct 300 feet of the project to NCDOT standards, and the remainder to county specifications only, in today's dollars, would be approximately \$152,000. This construction estimate includes a 10% contingency.

Attached is a copy of the revised estimate prepared by Mr. Don Smith with Robinson and Sawyer. We have also included an aerial depiction of the location of the proposed sidewalk. The City of Lowell would welcome funding for this project. It appears that the project could be actually administered by either the County or the City, and Lowell would be comfortable with either approach.



# ROBINSON & SAWYER, INC.

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTING AND DESIGN



EST. 1962

707 E. SECOND AVE. ■ GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28054 ■ PHONE: 704-864-2201 ■ FAX: 704-864-2276






**Preliminary Engineers Estimate of Construction Costs**  
**Proposed Sidewalk from Poston Park to Preston Place Subd. along Lowell Spencer Mtn. Rd.**  
**(300+ feet within R/W of Lowell Spencer Mtn. Rd., remainder on County, Poston Park Property)**  
**For Town of Lowell**  
**1/5/2016**

Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Mobilization	LS	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Clearing & Grubbing	AC	0.5	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
Seeding & Mulching	AC	0.5	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
Temporary Silt Fence	LF	1,400	\$3.00	\$4,200.00
Temporary Check Dams	EA	36	\$300.00	\$10,800.00
Excavation	CY	350	\$18.00	\$6,300.00
24" Concrete Curb & Gutter	LF	300	\$30.00	\$9,000.00
I-19.0B Asphalt Base Course	TNS	15	\$125.00	\$1,875.00
S-9.5B Asphalt Surface Course	TNS	7	\$125.00	\$875.00
Concrete Sidewalk	SY	715	\$60.00	\$42,900.00
Incidental Stone	TNS	70	\$50.00	\$3,500.00
Storm Drainage Pipe	LF	30	\$30.00	\$900.00
Storm Drainage Structure	EA	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Flared End Section	EA	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Signage/Landscaping	LS	1	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Fencing/Protective Barriers/Trash Cans	LS	1	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
Traffic Control	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Engineering/Surveying/Administration	LS	1	\$18,100.00	\$18,100.00
			Sub-Total	<b>\$138,550.00</b>
			10%+ Cont.	\$13,855.00
			<b>2015 Dollars TOTAL</b>	<b>\$152,000</b>
(Inflation at 5% per year for 6 years)			<b>2021 Dollars TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,000</b>

**Note(s):**

- 1) Cost estimate does not include removal of rock or unsuitable subgrade soil

**Legend**

-  Municipal Lines
-  City of Lowell Sidewalks
-  Proposed Sidewalk to Poston Park
-  Creeks/Streams
-  Parks & Recreation Areas



Poston  
Park

N  
500

Feet