

Councilmembers-

I am sharing an attached memo from Parks and Recreation Director Wade Walcutt that provides a comprehensive update on the five city parks currently in the State's Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program (East End, East Durham, Lyon, Northgate, and Walltown). I wanted to get this to you now because we are receiving an increasing number of inquiries from the community as we approach the final stages of the State's assessment. While we are all understandably frustrated that the timeline for the final reports has shifted into late February and March, we remain appreciative of NCDEQ's technical expertise and their ongoing partnership in ensuring these spaces are safe for public use.

A few key takeaways from the update:

- **Funding Status:** We currently have approximately \$12 million in approved CIP funding available, which includes the \$5 million approved in FY 2024-25 and \$7 million in FY 2025-26. Because we likely cannot expend this total within a single fiscal year and are still awaiting final data to guide specific remediation strategies, we are not requesting additional funding at this time.
- **Next Steps:** Once the Remedial Investigation Summary Reports are received in March, staff will share those findings with you and the community and develop park-specific recommendations.
- **Interim Access:** Throughout this process, DPR requested opportunities to restore partial park access or redesign amenities in unaffected areas. However, NCDEQ declined these requests, citing public health concerns and the need to complete the full risk assessment before supporting any changes.

We will continue to advocate for the most expedited path toward restoring these vital community assets. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

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