



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR TO RETIRE DEC. 30

WAKE FOREST, NC – November 15, 2010 – Parks and Recreation Director Susan Simpson has announced that she will retire Dec. 30 after 18 years as head of the department.

Born and raised in Monroe, NC, Simpson graduated from Monroe High School in 1975. She attended Wingate College in Wingate, NC, where she graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services, and a minor in Recreation. In 1980, Simpson received a master's degree in Recreation Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also a graduate of the UNC School of Government's Municipal and County Administration Course.



Simpson will retire with 30 years of municipal service. She began her career in 1981 as the Town of Selma's parks and recreation program supervisor and was appointed director two years later. Simpson left Selma in 1991 to become Iredell County's recreation director before being hired in 1992 as the parks and recreation director in Wake Forest.

Since arriving in Wake Forest Simpson has made several important contributions to the Town's recreation programs and facilities. She has overseen a significant expansion of the Town's greenways development, coordinated renovations of the Wake Forest Community House and the Alston-Massenburg Center, and supervised the construction of E. Carroll Joyner Park, Flaherty Park, and the Flaherty Park Community Center. Also during her tenure, Wake Forest passed two parks and recreation bonds totaling \$10.2 million and garnered nearly \$5 million in grants.

Today the Town's parks and recreation department manages 600 acres of parks, open space, natural land, and trails, including nine baseball/softball fields, seven soccer fields, one pool, six picnic areas, eight playgrounds, 14 lighted tennis courts, a dog park, the Wake Forest

Community House, the Alston-Massenburg Center, Flaherty Park Community Center, and more than seven miles of greenway trails.

“Susan has done an outstanding job of leading her department through a period of sustained growth, both in programs and facilities,” said Town Manager Mark Williams. “She has brought the department from its small-town roots to a leading-edge, customer-oriented provider of leisure services.”

In addition to her duties as parks and recreation director, Simpson also serves as the Town’s public facilities director and was the project manager during the construction of the new Wake Forest Town Hall. She is also the Town’s staff liaison to the Recreation Advisory Board, the Youth Advisory Board, Senior Center Advisory Board, and the Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association.

Simpson is an active member of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Association and the Citizen Board Member Forum Planning Committee. She was a 2008 recipient of the Jack “Swede” Frauson Professional Award which is presented annually for outstanding work and accomplishments in park and recreation.

The Town of Wake Forest will honor Simpson with a special luncheon in December or January. Plans for filling her position will be announced early next year.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.