

NC OUTDOOR HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Inspiring Adventure.
Investing in the future.*



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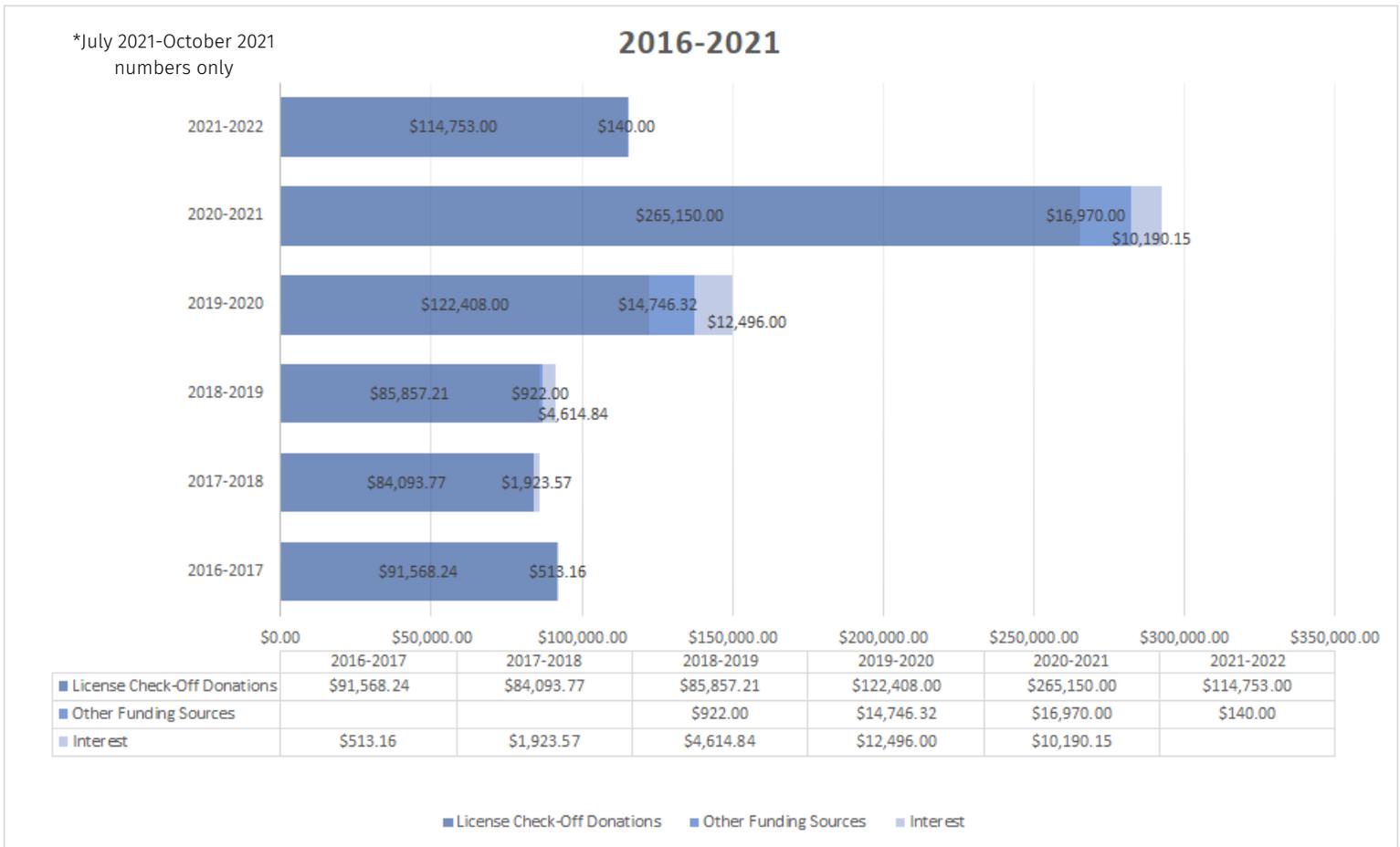


Who we are...

The North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council is working to enable the next generation of passionate participants in North Carolina's outdoor heritage activities. The Council provides leadership, guidance, and funding through programs and initiatives throughout the state, providing kids and teens with opportunities to encounter and experience the outdoors. We are helping kids step away from the electronic devices and discover those activities in the Carolina wilderness that have been enjoyed for generations, but are now seeing a decline in interest. That includes outdoor heritage activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, camping, archery, canoeing, bird watching, kayaking, swimming, and more. The Council's long-term vision is to preserve the health, heritage, and natural resources of our great state by inspiring a new generation of outdoor adventurers. The best way to do that is by igniting a passion for the outdoors through the language that all kids speak fluently: fun.

NC Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund for Youth Outdoor Heritage Promotion

The North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund for Youth Outdoor Heritage Promotion was established in 2015 by the General Assembly. When someone purchases a hunting, fishing, trapping or vessel license they have the opportunity to donate \$1, \$2, \$5, \$15, \$25 or any other amount directly to the trust fund.



Fiscal Year Total
 2016-2018: \$92,081.40
 2017-2018: \$86,017.34
 2018-2019: \$91,394.05
 2019-2020: \$149,650.32
 2020-2021: \$292,310.15
 2021-2022: \$114,893 *July-October

NC Schools Go Outside

"GO" Grant Program

In the spring of 2019, we launched our GO Grant Program. These grants are awarded to schools to get students outside through outdoor educational field trips or by constructing on-campus learning centers. Since its creation there have been 397 GO Grants and proposals awarded in 77 counties with over 117,000 students impacted. This does not include the 174 grants that were awarded but had to be forfeited due to COVID.

The Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council was allocated a total of \$3.2 million in CARES Act Funds and Covid-19 Pandemic Federal Funds by the General Assembly. All of those funds were awarded to schools and partners to construct on-campus learning centers, to take students on field trips or create programming to get youth outdoors.



2021 Year in Review

The General Assembly allocated \$1.2 million dollars to the NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council in April. Since January, the GO Grant committee has awarded 84 grants and proposals.

Some examples of some amazing COVID Relief GO Grants are below:

- Gov. Morehead School received a grant to build greenhouses and a sensory garden for all the schools to use on campus, along with partnering with NC State University to create tactile maps for students to learning how to navigate different terrains in a safe environment.
- Blue Ridge Elementary in Yancey County built a barn for their goats that included a pen, and teaching area for the students to learn how to care for animals and have an interactive, outdoor teaching space.
- Southeast Randolph Middle School in Randolph County was able to purchase supplies for the students to help clear a trail on campus and purchase outdoor benches to create outdoor learning spaces along the trail.
- Island Montessori School in New Hanover County created an outdoor classroom space by purchasing two pole tents and convertible “table” benches to provide seating and workspaces for students outdoors, along with building awning for classrooms to access to the outdoors.
- Foothills Community School in McDowell County received a grant that allowed them to lower the overall cost for student to go on a field trip to the Whitewater Center in Charlotte. This was the first field trip these students have taken since the pandemic and it was to encourage collaboration and trust between students through teambuilding exercises.
- Audrey Garrett Elementary in Alamance County built an outdoor pavilion so students can have a space to learn about collaboration, nature, and hands on learning in a safe environment.
- Arthur Edwards Elementary School in Craven County purchased an OutClass outdoor classroom with outdoor learning stations for an entire class, complete with a teaching station so students could be outdoors learning about any subject.
- Chapel Grove Elementary School in Gaston County built an outdoor classroom with metal picnic tables and umbrellas for students to use as an outdoor learning space and break area from technology to enjoy the outdoors.
- DF Walker Elementary School in Chowan County received a grant that lowered the cost for their 4th grade students on go on a field trip to Jennette’s Pier. There they learned about local marine biology and solar science.

Rolesville Middle School

Rolesville Middle School in Wake County received a GO Grant to create an inclusive educational gardening and agricultural program accessible to all students, with raised garden beds to be wheelchair accessible.

Special Education Teachers, Mrs. Hardy and Miss. Nellie said, “We have already seen such huge impact from the Go Grant because we were given the resources needed to create a space where our students feel safe, accepted and valued. The sensory garden we have been able to create from the Go Grant funds have given our students the opportunity to interact with their peers in an inclusive environment where all students are learning and growing together! Because of this grant we have been given a once in a life time opportunity to provide high quality agricultural instruction that teaches our students healthy living, and imperative life skills for all!”



Rockingham County Education Foundation

OHAC has awarded GO Grants to the Rockingham Education Foundation to help four local schools in Rockingham County with outdoor learning projects. Moss Street Partnership School, Rockingham Middle School, and Booker T. Washington created outdoor learning trails for their students, and Dalton McMichael High School created an elderberry garden. Each of the projects have created more outdoor learning spaces for the students and the learning trails are open to the community to encourage people of all ages to learn more about the outdoors.

Jenny Edwards, Executive Director of Rockingham County Education Foundation said the following, "NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council has made it possible for 15,750 student contact hours (and counting) in nature-based learning in the backyards of their schools since May of this year. Students and their teachers have been involved in weather tracking, nature documenting, building wildlife habitat, tree identification, and the simple joy of being in the woods. Even more, your investment in trails at our local schools has inspired a rippling and still expanding impact across all the schools in the county.

NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council has brought incredible opportunity to Rockingham County. It's why our staff is, personally, a proud financial supporter, will continue to be, and encourages everyone to contribute to the work of this terrific Council."





NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council

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