



Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina

FY2023 - 2024
ANNUAL REPORT



FY 2023-24 Annual Report



Dear Lake Lure Tax Payers, Residents, Business Owners, and Guests:

I am pleased to share the FY 2023-24 Annual Report for the Town of Lake Lure. It is a privilege to continue to serve the citizens of Lake Lure during my extended second term. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of leaders serving as Town Manager and Town Commissioners shown here left to right on the front Row: Town Manager Olivia Stewman, myself, Commissioner Dave DiOrio (Mayor Pro Tem), and on the back row left to right: Commissioner Patrick Bryant, Commissioner Jim Proctor, and Commissioner Scott Doster.

We appreciate the community's support of the important work we are continuing to oversee to preserve Lake Lure for current and future generations. Rehabilitating our Town's core infrastructure has remained a top priority during the past year. To this end, the Town of Lake Lure was very fortunate to receive \$16.5 million from the State of North Carolina for the dam replacement project. Additionally, the Town received \$8 million for water and wastewater infrastructure projects from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding along with a \$12.5 million low interest loan for the Sewer System replacement from the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure. These funds, in addition to grant funding and the Dam Reserve Funds provided by property owners has helped the Town make progress with key projects.

I have included a list of some of the key accomplishments from the past year below, followed by accomplishments by department in this annual report.

Community Engagement

- Held Community Round Table Meetings to ensure on going communication with our local residents.
- Listened to feedback regarding the Lake Use Regulations and made significant modifications based on community input to further increase safety; support additional fishing opportunities; and omit permit requirement and fees for non-motorized boats.
- Offered two Community Forums, one with Rutherford County Sheriff Aaron Ellenburg and one on Fishing in Lake Lure including the 2024 Fishing Study results.
- Secured Town funding to improve holiday lighting for the community.

Infrastructure

- Continued maintenance of the existing sewer system resulting in significantly less water infiltration.
- Completed LaBella Associate's task for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Master Plan.
- Submitted documentation for the Water System Management Plant and are currently awaiting NC Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) approval.
- Continued coordination with Chimney Rock Village to confirm appropriate terms regarding water system operations.
- Continued oversight of the new reservoir drain valve project which is underway and on-schedule.
- Created a staging area for multiple major projects that are being conducted.
- Initiated a long-term dredging plan.

Organizational Structure/Oversight

- Enforced policies and plans in relation to major projects.
- Closely monitored project costs and enhanced cost-effectiveness.
- Established and enforced a penalty fee for zoning and land use projects that began without obtaining proper permits.
- Established a lake structure permit for minor structural repairs, demolitions, and deck-top accessory structures.
- Updated the database for vacation renters (VR) and continued coordination between departments to ensure that vacation rentals obtain VR boat permits.

Public Safety

- Increased law enforcement patrol time on the Lake to protect boaters and enhance safety.
- Completed the Fire Department Space Needs Study to build a future public safety building.
- Conducted a preliminary cost analysis for emergency access to the West End Connector.
- Continued the enforcement of dock inspections and address tag compliance on lake structures.

Resources

- Established multiple capital reserve funds for the purpose of building equity for capital projects.
- Relocated the ABC Store to maximize income from prime real estate through rental income.
- Appraised property and have a lease in progress.
- Utilized The Policy Group (lobbyist firm) for enhanced communication with political representatives.

We hope you will take a few moments to review the entire report for an overview of all the work that has been completed over the course of the past year. We remain committed to the work ahead and to our continued focus on rebuilding the Town’s infrastructure. As always, we value your support and welcome your feedback as we continue to work together to preserve Lake Lure for current and future generations.

Respectfully,

Carol Pritchett

Mayor Carol Pritchett





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Community Development

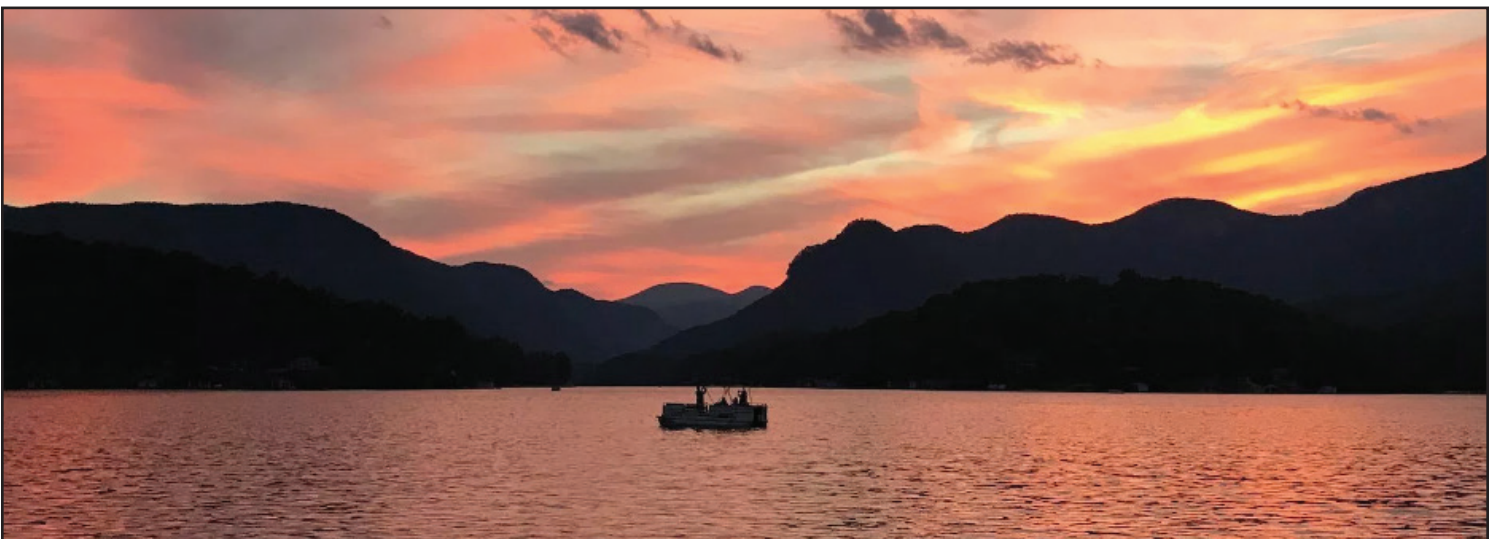
Community Development Director Mike Williams, Development and Environmental Review Specialist Rick Carpenter, and Administrative Support Specialist Kimberly Martin are responsible for comprehensive plan-related projects and administering the various regulations in the Town Code relating to land use, including the subdivision regulations and zoning regulations. Administrative Support Specialist Kimberly Martin was added to the Department in 2023 and she has made a significant impact in her new role.

The Department interprets these regulations, inspects properties, and follows up on citizen concerns and also serve as staff liaisons to the Zoning & Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. In addition, the Department works with the Public Services Department to maintain and enhance the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) and mapping services.

Planning activities include implementing the Town of Lake Lure's 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan and guiding the facilitation planning process behind the Town Center Master Plan.

Zoning administration includes issuing certificates of zoning compliance, residential vacation rental permits, and sign permits. A zoning permit or lake structure permit is required for all structural additions or repairs, and for changes in land use to ensure compliance with the Town code. For example, some people may not be aware that building a deck or a fence requires a permit.

- Consciously worked to establish a customer-supportive team focused on guiding and supporting applicants working on land use projects, through the Town's subdivision and zoning regulations. The goal is to balance property owner interests with the Lake Lure community's common interests, building up this place we call home.
- Persistently worked with AT&T to meet the community's critical need for dependable cellular service. We anticipate the probability of having "4-5 bars of service" available from the other side of Chimney Rock and up the main channel of the Lake through the Paradise Point/dam area during the summer of 2024.
- Continued addressing the Town's Lake Structure Inspection Program. The program helps the Town (owner of the Lake) and property owners (owner of structures built on the Town's Lake) identify structurally unsound docks, boat houses and other structures and work together to bring them into safety compliance with the Ordinances of the Town.
- Processed an average of (48) permits per month including zoning permits, lake structure permits, and land development permits.



Fire Department/Emergency Management



Lake Lure Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Dustin Waycaster is shown here in the center on the front of the Fire Truck. He and his crew responded to 523 (911 calls) in 2023. Chris Melton is the Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator (shown here in black in the rear window) and Trey Lewis (on the front on the far right) is the Fire Lieutenant. The following are full-time Firefighters for the Department: Tommy Aley, Josh Hendrix, Scout McCormick, Shane Snoddy, and Ethan Witlock.

The following are the Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters: Rhett Ballard, Kortney Burrell, Aaron Collins, Max DeLauter, Amy Dills, Tiller Dills, Steve Gray, Frankie Hamrick, Jammie Howell, Jacob Hunter, Gabe Karabelski, David Lusk, Thomas Casey McIntosh, Jeffrey Neil, Nathan Snyder, Donnie Tipton, Chuck Womack, and Jim Womack.

The Town continues to appreciate the service to the Town from our contracted departments that respond to calls in our area. Bills Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Chimney Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and Fairfield Mountains Volunteer Fire Department.

The Department provided invaluable service to our community last year. These are a few of the highlights of their work:

- In 2023, 61% of the calls the Department respond to were fire/rescue calls and 39% were medical calls.
- There were (11) structure fires, (13) natural vegetation fires, and (3) automobile fires in 2023.
- There were (18) calls for people in distress last year.
- The Department provided mutual aid on multiple days in Henderson County.
- Staff logged over (3,080) hours of training for paid staff and volunteer firefighters.
- Training included the County Swift Water Team, Rutherford County and Henderson County Rescue Squad Dive Training, and other fire agencies with classes and live fire training.
- Staff participated in monthly meetings with the Rutherford County Emergency Management Response Team.
- The Department completed Annual Servicing/Testing of the following: Hose Testing, Apparatus Service Testing, Fire Extinguishers in all Town Departments, Hydrant Flows and Inspections, Flood Warning System Maintenance, Ladder Resting, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Testing, Automated External Defibrillator Maintenance/Testing for all Town Departments, Water Point Maintenance with pre-plan reviews and corrections.
- Completed Fire Inspections and Plan Reviews at businesses throughout Lake Lure.
- Demonstrated a hand held sonar device that operators underwater to facilitate rescues.
- Completed Dive Training with Henderson County Rescue Squad at Isothermal Community College.
- Completed Fire Flow and worked extensively with the Lake Vista Apartments to repair their sprinkler system.
- Completed significant maintenance and repairs on your fire engine 2510.
- Assisted McDowell County with a search and rescue of a hunter that was in a very remote area.
- Chief Waycaster and Assistant Chief Melton served as instructors with Isothermal Community College and taught half of the required courses. They hosted the Firefighter Certification Series at multiple locations throughout the area region.
- Installed trail markers throughout the 8.7 miles of backcountry trail on Weed Patch Mountain Trail and the 1.5 mile Upper Boulder Trail.
- Assisted Public Works with confined space entry on manhole #11 off of Buffalo Shoals Road to ensure safety for workers.
- Tested and completed severe weather sirens with the Rutherford County Fire Marshal.
- Water rescue boat training with multiple county agencies.

- The Town of Lake Lure hosted the NC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART) as they conducted training at Chimney Rock State Park and the Rumbling Bald Climbing Access April 24-25, 2023. The team performed several training evolutions with various emergency scenarios with the Lake Lure Town Hall serving as the Command Center. Morse Park was utilized as the landing zone.

- Staff completed Active Shooter Training at AB Tech.

- Responded to a structural fire at a multi-family dwelling at Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure. Contained fire to 3 out of 6 condominiums. Major damage to one condo upon arrival and limited damage to the other two. There were no injuries.

- Parent-Teacher Training at Lake Lure Classical Academy

- Fire Prevention Training at Lake Lure Classical Academy

- The following teams participated in the training exercise: NC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, NC Emergency Management, NC State Parks Service, and Lake Lure Fire/Emergency Management Department.

- The focus of this training exercise was on gaining access to climbers or hikers that are injured in remote areas requiring extensive rescue efforts greater than four hours. Additionally, drills included victims impacted by flood conditions. These simulated rescues were conducted in daylight and at night. This training exercise was an invaluable benefit to the Lake Lure Fire Department/Emergency Management (LLFD/EM) Rescue Staff as this was an opportunity to train with an elite state aquatic rescue team. Furthermore, the exercise helped the NC HART team become familiar with the Hickory Nut Gorge area should the LLFD/EM seek their assistance with future emergency rescues.



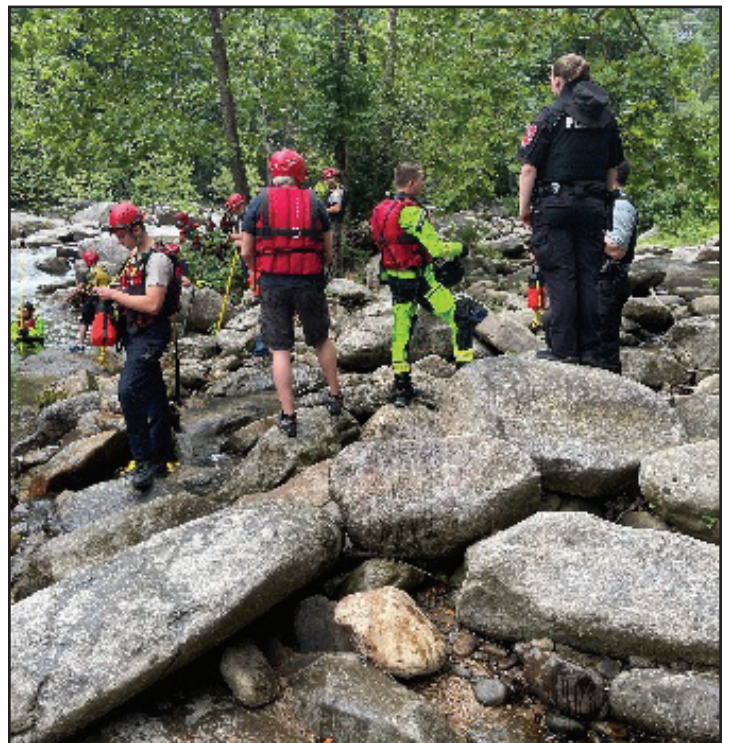
Lake Lure Fire Department's Mutual Aid in Henderson County



NC HART, NC Emergency Management, NC State Parks Service, and Lake Lure Fire/Emergency Management Department during Training Exercise



- Provided event stand-by support at the following Town events: Lake Lure Dance festival, Spring and Fall Lake Lure Arts and Crafts Festival, Classic Boat and Auto Show, and The Rumble Bouldering Competition, Cycle NC, Community Independence Day Celebration, July 4th and Labor Day Fireworks Celebrations.



Lake Lure Fire Department's Water Rescue Training

Parks Recreation, and Lake Department

The Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department is led by Director Dean Givens with support by the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator Dana Bradley and Administrative Support Specialist Corbie Bradley. There are three full-time Maintenance Technicians that help sustain the Town Parks and Trails: Carl Landrum, Donnie Martin, and Christopher Shields. They do an amazing job keeping Lake Lure beautiful all year around.

It was another exciting year for the Department. The following are a few of their top accomplishments in 2023.

2023 Boat Permits Sold

Annual Motorized	978
Resident AM 10	14
Non-resident Motorized	122
Non-resident AM 10	5
Complimentary	25
Town Contract/Government Boat	2
Annual Motorized 90	21

Commercial

Towed Water	4
Tour	7
Livery	28
Vacation Rental	22
Service/Fishing Guide	17
Commercial Non-motorized	234

- Utilized 4,482 volunteer hours on Lake Lure parks, lake, and trails, valued at over \$89,000. The volunteers are managed by our Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator and they assist with many projects, including trail maintenance, lake debris clean-up, landscaping, and water sample collection.
- Began selling boat permits at the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department and coordinated training and education on Boat Permit sales at the Washburn Marina and Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure.
- Implemented a new boat permitting system to keep track of boat permit sales.
- Installed the new 1.5-mile long Upper Boulders Trail at Buffalo Creek Park which has been well received.
- Installed a new trail to connect the Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails with the Green Space, enhancing access for hikers and dog walkers.
- Resurfaced the tennis/pickleball courts for enhanced use.
- Installed a few new picnic tables in Morse Park and at the Green Space.
- Performed root revitalization on the crepe myrtle trees along the beach to promote healthy growth.
- Installed additional holiday lights to brighten the Town.



Upper Boulder Trail Ribbon Cutting



Upper Boulder Trail - First Hikers



Tennis/Pickleball Court Ribbon Cutting



New Holiday Lighting

Police Department

Sean Humphries continues to serve as the Police Chief and he has two Sergeants, Glen Gittens and Carl Umphlet. Aaron Collins serves as Corporal and Kat Canant serves as the Police Administrative Assistant. There are five full-time Patrol Officers: Kortney Burrell, Tyler Dills, Keith Morris, Carlos Sanchez, and Chris Shuford. The Department is also supported by several reserve officers.



Left to right, Sergeant Glen Gittens, Reserve Officer Terry Frank, Patrol Officer Chris Shuford, Police Pastor Kevin Anderson, Patrol Officer Carlos Sanchez, Dana Bradley, Tyler Dills, Kortney Burrell, Corporal Aaron Collins, Sergeant Carl Umphlet, Police Administrative Assistant Kat Canant, Patrol Officer Dean Givens, and Police Chief Sean Humphries.

The department continued to maintain a very low crime rate for the year through professional and persistent policing. According to NeighborhoodScout's analysis of FBI crime statistics, Lake Lure is safer than 86% of the cities and towns in the US of all population sizes. In North Carolina, only on the order of 6% of the communities have a lower crime rate than Lake Lure.



- The department continued to strengthening and build a professional partnership with LLCA by holding several Q & A sessions both with parents and staff on campus security and overall preparedness in the event of a school shooting.
- The department had another successful year with the Raptor Roundup, which is an initiative where the department gathers gifts for less fortunate children for the holiday season. The number of kids helped this year grew from 20 last year to 24 this year. The department is grateful to the generous citizens of Lake Lure who are always happy to help us provide for these less fortunate children.
- The department was able to maintain a low turnover during a time when most agencies are 2 and 3 officers short most of the year.

- At the request of the council and due to new regulations on the Lake the Police Department set forth an initiative of more enforcement and education of the new rules and regulations of the lake. Through the dedication of the officers, close to 400 hours of lake patrol was recorded. This was deemed to be a success due to greater compliance and many citizens and council members acknowledging that the lake seemed safer this year than it has been in years.
- The Department continues to support the law enforcement members of the town dive team through training and apparatus purchases.
- Provided security as well as off duty officers for the numerous events through the peak season to include NC Cycle Event, The Dance Festival, the Spring and Fall Arts and Crafts shows, etc.
- Lake Lure Officer participated in National Night Out held by the Marion Police Department in Marion NC. This is an event that has agencies from different municipalities come and gather on main street for the public to see the different patrol cars and equipment from all around. Our officers represented the Town of Lake Lure well.



Public Services

The Public Services Director is Dean Lindsey. The department is responsible for planning, organizing, supervising, and coordinating the work and personnel of the Town's Public Works Department, the Lake Lure Dam and the Hydro-electric plant.

The Public Services Staff includes Public Services Administration Technician Andi Ogle, Public Services Supervisor Chase Harris, Hydro-electric Utilities Technician Bailey Graeper, and Maintenance Technicians Seth Baily, and Nathan Snyder. Public Services duties include street maintenance and repair, street sign installation and maintenance, water pipe system repair and maintenance, sewer system construction, facility maintenance and repair, landscaping, installation and repair of catch basins and manholes as well as overseeing sanitation and recycling efforts. The Public Services Director confers with the Town Manager with respect to short and long-range public works projects, and work programs; assists with the preparation of specifications for the purchase of public services materials and equipment; and develops material and cost estimates.

The Town of Lake Lure's Hydro Utilities Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Dam Hydro-electric System, Wastewater Treatment System, and water system operations. The Hydro-Utilities Supervisor is Randy Rollins and he is supported by Hydro-Utilities Technician Gunar Harris. The primary responsibility in managing the Hydro-electric System is to maximize electricity generation while controlling the level of Lake Lure. The staff monitors the watersheds of the lake and determines when to open the Tainter gates for the dam and when to operate the turbines. In addition, the department is responsible for the maintenance of the hydro-electric plant including the scheduling of heavy maintenance of the plant and dam. The department is responsible for all bids and contracts concerning the hydro-electric power plant and waste water treatment plant, and fresh water systems operations.

The following is a summary of the major accomplishments for 2023

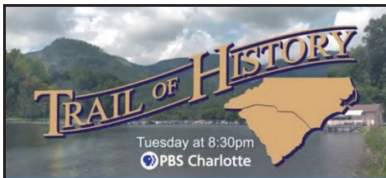
- Dewatering of the Waste Water Treatment Plant successfully removed 206 tons of sludge
- The deep water access valve project was started
- Assisted contractors with site preparation and access to construction area
- Continued efforts to monitor and control water flow from the hydro-electric plant
- New Christmas light installation
- Raised shoulder and fixed ditch on Sunset Cove
- Built shoulder on Boys Camp Road
- Replaced culverts on Luther Burbank
- Cleared for well sight on Firefly Cove
- The canopies were trimmed all along Boys Camp Road and roads off of Boy's Camp Road
- Replaced culvert at the Green Space
- Canopies trimmed along Justice Drive
- Fixed sink hole on Luther Burbank
- Leaves vacuumed on all Town roads
- Jetted drainage throughout town
- Refinished ditches on Storm Ridge
- Graveled Luther Burbank Drive
- Cold patch roads all throughout Town



Communications

Laura Krejci serves as the Communications Director, Grants Coordinator, and Events Coordinator for the Town. The following are highlights from key projects in 2023.

- Administered the Town’s website which increased is users by (34%) in the past year with an average of (14,575) users each month in 2023, compared to (10,866) in 2022.
- Published an average of (30) articles each month in the Town News on the website.
- Developed a subscriber bank with over 2,000 participants. Forwarded the Town News articles to this growing group monthly via email. There was an (11%) increase in subscribers in 2023.
- The Town also utilizes Facebook and at the end of 2023, there were 20,676 followers, representing an 8% increase (+1,481) over 2022.
- Coordinated a series of Round Table Meetings for the community to provide detailed updates, discussion, and opportunities to ask questions of the Mayor and Town Commissioners.
- Worked with Town Council to produce the Lake Lure Statutory and Advisory Board Video which we hope will be a long standing resources to help communicate the salient responsibilities and requirements for future board members.
- Worked with Town Council, the Lake Advisory Board, and the Parks, recreation, and Lake Department to produce the Boater Safety Video to emphasis the importance of safety on Lake Lure.
- Coordinated interviews for the development of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge History for the historical overview of the Bridge for the Town and Bridge websites.



- Facilitated Community Awareness Forums to bring in speakers such as the Rutherford County Sheriff to Lake Lure to discuss topics of importance to the public.



- Worked with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to film a Trail of History Episode Featuring Lake Lure.
- Coordinated filming for episodes of Carolina Trippin’ and Lake Lure was voted by followers as the Best Lake in North Carolina in the NC Trippin’ contest!
- Worked with media to market Lake Lure. Coordinated numerous interviews with the media to highlight the Town and local events.

FEMA's Rehabilitation of High Hazard-Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program

- Managed the FEMA High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant applications to support the replacement dam. The Town has received \$618,070 in FEMA HHPD Grant funding to date for the alternatives analysis for the replacement of the Lake Lure Dam, design of the reservoir drain, conceptual design, and field investigation for the replacement for the Lake Lure Dam.
- Two additional FEMA HHPD Grant applications are pending for the initial 30% design (\$484,500) and for the detailed design for the replacement dam (\$2,275,000).
- Coordinated the Events Team with Community Development, the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. Presented all event proposals to Town Council and work with event organizers to help ensure successful events take place in Lake Lure. An overview of events held in Lake Lure in 2023 is included at the end of this report.



- Organized and led the following annual events: Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Lighting Up Lake Lure with the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.
- Led the Holiday Lights Team with Public Works and the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Departments to enhance holiday lighting in Lake Lure.

Human Resources and Customer Service

Jennifer Duncan serves as the Human Resources and Customer Service Specialist. She oversees all aspects of Human Resources for the Town and also manages Utility Billing. The following are some of her accomplishments in 2023.

- Successfully completed a significant increase in electronic meters which saves time, is more accurate, and requires less man power.
- Updated the Town's personnel policy for retirees with the assistance of the Town Manager.
- Increased electronic billing for utility customers which increased efficiency and timely payments.
- Attended Human Resources Training with the Local Government Office.
- Continued employee engagement events to enhance employee morale.
- Supported the annual audits with the Finance Department.
- Continued to recruit, hire and onboard new employees in an efficient manner.



Finance

Finance Director Steve Ford oversees the Finance Department and hired Finance Administrative Specialist Diane Daneau-Duval to assist in managing day-to-day operations. Additionally, he manages the front reception and works with Administrative Support Specialist and Deputy Town Clerk Wendy Terry to ensure everyone who enters Town Hall is met with a warm greeting. Mrs. Terry also assists with facility rentals and seasonal functions.

The following are a few of the accomplishments of this team in 2023:

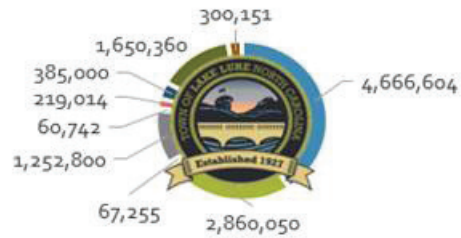
- Implemented necessary internal controls for payroll and accounting procedures to enhance system security and accountability.
- Confirmed and recommended needed changes for Town Leases and Town owned property
- Began first step in document scanning and invoice correlation with accounting software system.
- Secured reimbursements for the Town’s infrastructure projects in the amount of approximately 3 million dollars.
- Trained and supervised Accounting Clerk as she coordinated the invoice and check authorization processes.
- The chart below illustrates the Town’s General Fund.

Total FY2023-2024 Budget from All Funds = \$11,461,975



■ Total General Fund ■ Water and Sewer Fund ■ Electric Fund

FY 2023 - 2024 Revenues



■ Ad Valorem & Vehicle Taxes ■ State Shared Revenues and Grants
 ■ Land Use Fees ■ Cultural and Recreation
 ■ Miscellaneous Revenues ■ Transfer from Capital Reserve
 ■ Installation Agreement ■ Water and Sewer Fund
 ■ Electric Fund

Town Clerk

Olivia Stewman served as Town Clerk during the past year although she was promoted to Town Manager in April of 2024. She was instrumental in preparing for Town Council and Board Meetings. She attended and recorded minutes for approximately 88 Council, Marine Commission, and Board Meetings. The following is a summary of some of her additional accomplishments throughout the year.



- Submitted all required reports to the NC Secretary of State and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.
- Became a North Carolina Notary Public.
- Followed up on various public requests and inquiries.
- Maintained an inventory of all active contracts.
- Coordinated with peers and the Town Attorney to ensure that the Town met all open meeting law requirements.
- Composed approximately 50 resolutions, 10 ordinances, and 25 notices
- Began monitoring and enforcing volunteer board requirements as detailed in the Lake Lure Advisory and Statutory Board Handbook.
- Participated in three continuing education courses through the North Carolina School of Government

Consulting Engineers

The Town of Lake Lure works with a number of contractors who are supporting the rebuilding of Lake Lure's infrastructure. The following is a summary of two primary contractors. LaBella Associate oversees the Sewer System Replacement Project and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Schnabel Engineering oversees the Dam Replacement.

LaBella Associates

- 2023 was a year of preparation for continuation of the Subaqueous Sanitary Sewer (SASS) replacement project. Unfortunately, the Sewer Access Valve installation was delayed and is now expected to be installed by September 2024. In the meantime, LaBella completed design and obtained permits for the completion of the new sewers on the north side of Sunset Cove, building upon the preparatory work that was performed during the 2022-23 drawdown. This new sewer work was anticipated to be occur during the abbreviated 2023-24 drawdown, however conflicts arose with the Sewer Access Valve installation work, interfering with Ruby-Collins' work which will now be deferred to the 2024-25 drawdown. The next drawdown will be the first one involving a 20-foot drawdown of the Lake, after which the first customers will be able to be connected to the new sewer system.
- LaBella completed a Master Plan for a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), identifying facility needs and anticipated costs as well as evaluating possible sites. The existing Plant is old and outdated and sits entirely within the flood plain. The Town is currently in process of negotiating to purchase the recommended site, after which the Town will determine next steps in the project's development.
- LaBella is assisting the Town in procuring equipment to dewater sludge at the WWTP, which previously the Town has contracted out. The new equipment will be portable so that it can be relocated to the new WWTP when the time comes.



- With funds obtained through a 'Sewer Asset Inventory and Assessment' grant from NCDEQ, LaBella performed a hydrographic survey of the entire Lake to locate and map the entire existing SASS at the bottom of the Lake. Concurrently, the

Town performed 'smoke testing' of much of the system in order to identify and then correct leaks which have hindered regulatory compliance at the existing WWTP.

- LaBella completed designs of improvements to the Firefly Cove water system as well as a water storage tank south of the Downtown area. Both of these projects are expected to be constructed in early 2024.
- LaBella assisted the Town in applying for a 'Water Asset Inventory and Assessment' grant from NCDEQ. If awarded, the Town plans to develop consolidated mapping of the entire water system and a computerized model that will enable informed planning for future water system expansion.

Schnabel Engineering

Schnabel Engineering provides specialized expertise and design for geotechnical, dam, and tunnel engineering projects across the United States and worldwide. The firm serves as the Town's Dam Safety Engineer. The following are a few of their high level accomplishments from 2023.



- Coordinated with the Town and NC DEQ Office of Dam Safety regarding past identified dam safety and dam maintenance issues and performed an updated detailed inspection of the dam. A detailed inspection of the dam's spillway gates is planned for Spring 2024.
- Coordinated with the Town and reservoir drain valve suppliers regarding the manufacturing and delivery of the reservoir drain valves.
- Coordinated with the Town and regulatory agencies to obtain the final approvals for the reservoir drain construction.
- Coordinated with the Town to select Morgan Corp. of Spartanburg, SC to construct the reservoir drain and finalize the construction contract.
- Assisted the Town with the easement acquisition and landowner approvals required for the reservoir drain construction.
- Providing contract administration and engineering support and oversight for the ongoing reservoir drain construction, scheduled for completion in Fall 2024.
- Coordinated with the Town's Sewer Engineer, LaBella, regarding the interface of the sewer modifications with the dam.
- Provided ongoing support to the Town with respect to public outreach and regulatory coordination, including available FEMA grant funding for the geologic and geotechnical investigations required to support the replacement dam design. These investigations are planned for 2024 once the grant funding has been released.

Events and Things To Do in Lovely Lake Lure, NC

Come and experience all that Lake Lure has to offer. There is something for everyone!



The Rumble

When: Each February

Where: Morse Park

In 2023, folks who showed up, climbed hard and stayed for the festivities - Thank you! Volunteers who pivoted to accommodate the rain plan - Thank you! Sponsors, donors and supporters who made this event possible - THANK YOU! Your collective participation in this event raised over \$9,000 for the CCC and \$2,000 for Conserving Carolina. These funds will be put straight to work protecting and preserving these lands we all love so much. A portion of the Rumble proceeds will go directly to paying off our Access Fund Land Conservation loan at Maibauer Boulders. The Maibauer Boulders are not our only recent access win though. If you love the Bald, then check out the new areas we have worked with partners to open near Rumbling Bald like Eagle Rock, Buffalo Creek, Little Bearwallow Falls, and Chimney Rock Village Boulders. Information for these areas and more can be found on our website under 'climbing areas'. Thanks to the ongoing partnership with Chimney Rock State Park, CCC was able to build a climber connector trail between the popular Comatose and Cereal Buttress areas in preparation for the Rumble. Give it a test run next time you're there!



Lake Lure Beach

The Beach Hours are 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

(Weather permitting and unless otherwise specified.)

The Beach opens 7 days a week beginning Memorial Day weekend through Sunday, August 11, 2024.

The Beach will be open weekends only on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 17 – Sunday, August 18
- Saturday, August 24 – Sunday, August 25
- Saturday, August 31 – Monday, Sept 2 (Labor Day weekend)



Lake Lure Farmers Market

When: Friday's from 4-7 (May – October)

Where: Morse Park

Come enjoy the beauty of Morse Park and the spectacular mountain and lake views while shopping for fresh produce each Friday afternoon, just in time for the weekend!



Lake Lure Arts & Craft Festival

When: Second weekend in May

Where: Lake Lure Town Center

Each year the Spring Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival is held. The festival celebrates the rich tradition of hand-made, Appalachian arts & crafts. It features more than 90 artisans and crafters who personally exhibit and sell their hand-made works to the public. This is the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind items or even pick up some gifts for that special someone as well. Alongside the arts & crafts vendors, there will be many great food and beverage vendors, entertaining musicians playing all day, a creek-side picnic area, and a large kids' activity zone. Conveniently located across from Lake Lure Beach, this is an event you won't want to miss and it is sponsored by the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach, the local food bank. Admission is free but donations are always appreciated.



Lake Lure Spring Classic Boat & Car Show

When: Third Weekend in May

Where: Lake Lure Town Center

Journey back in time as we gather to see the antique and classic boats along with classic cars at this free lakeside show. Enjoy food and drink from a variety of food trucks on the Beach.

Events and Things To Do in Lovely Lake Lure, NC



Lake Lure Memorial Day Program
Monday, 5/21/24 at 9:00 am
at the Lake Lure Veterans Memorial
(Across from the Lake Lure Beach)

Lake Lure Memorial Day Program

When: Annually on Memorial Day at 9 AM

Where: Lake Lure Veterans Memorial
(Across from Lake Lure Beach)

Please join us for this poignant service to honor our Nations Heroes! The program is outside and will conclude with a complimentary breakfast. The public is encouraged to attend. Everyone is welcome!



Lake Lure Flag Retirement Ceremony

When: Flag Day - June 14 at 6:30 PM

Where: Back of Morse Park near the entrance to the walking trail by the Lake.



Olympiad Lure of the Lake Swim Event

When: Second Saturday in June at 8

Where: Lake Lure Beach

Join us for an aquatic adventure like no other at the stunning Lake Lure, NC. Prepare to immerse yourself in crystal-clear waters boasting a comfortable 70-degree temperature—perfect for a refreshing swim on a summer day!

Register at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/LakeLure/LakeLureSwimChallenge>



Lake Lure Olympiad 20th Anniversary!

3 Events in 3 Days

- Slam The Dam 10K Run
- Sprint Triathlon
- Race To The Rock 5K

August 9 - 11th, 2024

- Register by July 27th to get a t-shirt
- To register or for more information, scan the QR Code or visit LakeLureOlympiad.org



Lake Lure Olympiad

When: August

Where: Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure

An unforgettable weekend of athleticism, scenic marvels, and personal triumphs at the 20th Anniversary of the Lake Lure Olympiad! From August 9th to August 11th, immerse yourself in a series of thrilling events set against the stunning backdrop of Lake Lure.

Register at: <https://www.lakelureolympiad.org/>



Lake Lure Veterans Day Program

When: Annually on Veterans Day at 9 AM

Where: Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure

Please join us for this memorable program recognizing all our Nations Heroes! The program is on the Terrace and concludes with a complimentary breakfast. The public is encouraged to attend. Everyone is welcome!

Lake Lure Arbor Day Program



Lake Lure Arbor Day Program

When: Last Friday in April

Where: Morse Park

Events and Things To Do in Lovely Lake Lure, NC

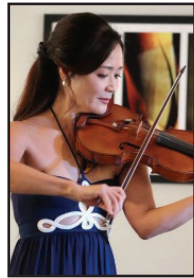


Lake Lure Music Festival

In 2023, the Lake Lure Music Festival (LLMF) hosted Appalachian Road Show, a visionary acoustic ensemble, bringing new-generation interpretations of traditional Americana, bluegrass and folk songs, as well as offering innovative original music, all presented with a common thread tied directly to the heart of the Appalachian regions of the United States. GRAMMY-nominated banjoist Barry Abernathy, joined forces with GRAMMY-winning fiddler Jim VanCleve, fresh off of his recent stint touring with multi-platinum country artist Josh Turner, as well as esteemed vocalist and mandolinist Darrell Webb, who has recorded and toured with Dolly Parton and Rhonda Vincent, among many others. The group also includes 26-year-old “old soul” guitarist Zeb Snyder, whose fierce and versatile playing recalls Doc Watson and Norman Blake as readily as it does Duane Allman and Stevie Ray Vaughn. The nearly 500 people who attended the concert at Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure were amazed by the talent of this outstanding group.



Wendy Sutter
(Cellist)



Chee-Yun
(Violinist)

Additionally, the LLMF brought a beautiful night of music to Lake Lure with Wendy Sutter (cello) and Chee-Yun (violin) extraordinary in their interpretation and playing of various movements from selections by Zoltan Kodaly, Phillip Glass, Sebastian Bach and Handel-Halvorsen. The Gardens had wonderful acoustics and the audience was spellbound by the virtuosity of these two renowned performers. The artists played duets together and also solo pieces to rousing ovations throughout, culminating in a long-standing ovation that seemed to not want to end. In addition to the music, the LLMF was able to make significant contributions to both the Lake Lure Classical Academy and the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach. It is their hope to continue to support these two important institutions.



Lighting Up Lake Lure and the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

When: Annually on the first Wednesday in December at 5:30 PM

Where: Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

The Town of Lake Lure and the Flowering Bridge Board, in partnership with Lake Lure Classical Academy, invite you to ring in the holidays with the Lighting of Lake Lure and the Flowering Bridge. The theme for the Flowering Bridge is Winter Wonderland with 40 “Macy’s Holiday Windows” with varied themes through the gardens. Mark your calendars for this “Norman Rockwell” experience in Lake Lure!



What was next for the Lake Lure Music Festival? Sister Sadie!

When: June 8, 2024 at 6

Where: Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure

The Lake Lure Music Festival’s next big event was “An Evening of Bluegrass & More” with Sister Sadie! It was a fantastic evening of live music at Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure. All those that attended experienced the wildfire that is Sister Sadie. This multiple International Bluegrass Music Award-winning band (Grammy-nominated as well!), brought the Lake Lure audience to their feet with their red-hot playing and beautiful harmonies. The North Carolina based duo Walter Finley and April Dawn opened the concert on the Pavilion stage. It was another unforgettable event filled with great music, good vibes, and beautiful surroundings.

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Stay tuned for information on the next great Lake Lure Music Festival Event.

Lake Lure Community Independence Celebration

Date	Time	Location
Saturday, July 6, 2024	6:30 - 9:30 PM	Lake Lure Beach



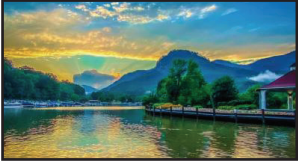
Lake Lure Community Independence Celebration

When: July 6, 2024

Where: Lake Lure Beach

Enjoy an All-You-Can-Eat Southern Cook-out Banquet with a Cash Bar (6:30 - 8:30 PM). Bring your beach blanket, sand chairs, and swim floats! Concluding with Joyous Fireworks at Dusk. Visit www.lakeluretours.com to purchase your tickets online.

Town of Lake Lure Parks and Trails



Lake Lure is fortunate to have several town-owned recreational facilities and opportunities for residents and visitors. Whether it's a new Lake Lure Green Space overlooking beautiful vistas, easy walking trails alongside the lake's edge, a game of tennis, shooting the hoops with your friends, bird-watching, or a challenging hike with your dog, there's something for every age and ability. Start with this list of amenities to find what's right for you. And check back often for new developments because we're always working on enhancing your outdoor experience in Lake Lure.



Buffalo Creek Park

- Gravel parking lot
- Picnic tables (ADA Compliant)
- 3.5 miles of trail
- Banked turns, berms, and rollers for mountain biking
- Views of Lake Lure, Bald Mountain Lake, and Young's Mountain
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)



Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail

- Covered picnic area (ADA Compliant)
- Picnic tables
- Benches located throughout trail
- 3.3 miles of trail
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)
- Nearby dining opportunities



Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

- Directory of plants and butterflies
- Seasonal Features and Free Classes
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)
- Views of Lake Lure and surrounding mountains
- Bench seating
- Rainbow Bridge
- Limited Parking but the bridge is a short distance from Morse Park with additional parking.
- Nearby dining opportunities
- Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is always free.



Lake Lure Beach and Water Park

Visit the Lake Lure Beach and relax under the sun, float on the water, build sand castles, or picnic with family and friends. Lake Lure Beach is the perfect getaway.

For a soaking good time, visit our water park with a water slide and water wars.

Enjoy the following features:

- 100 yards of clean, sandy beach and swimming area
- Ticket office, change area, bathrooms, and snacks
- A water park with water slides and water games
- Large covered picnic shelter on the beach
- Individual picnic tables
- Marked parking for 70 vehicles
- Nearby dining opportunities



Lake Lure Green Space

The Lake Lure Green Space was opened to the community in January 2022. The public has enjoyed this space for nature hikes and dog walks. A master plan will be developed for this space in the future.

- 2,738 yards of green space for the public's enjoyment.
- Scenic views of the Hickory Nut Gorge at the south eastern end of Town
- Open year-round
- Parking area



Weed Patch Mountain Trails

- Spectacular mountain views
- Access to Eagle Rock in Chimney Rock State Park
- Gravel parking lot at Buffalo Creek Park
- Note Important Eagle Rock Parking Area Updates from 5/7/24
- 8.7 miles of back country trail
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)

Visit www.townoflakelure.com for additional information and the latest Town News.



Morse Park

The meadows cover a large grassy area located beside the Welcome Center at 2926 Memorial Hwy. The rental area is also near, but does not include the picnic area, playground, basketball, and tennis courts. Those are for public use only.

With a large paved parking lot, portable restrooms, and plenty of level ground, the meadow is an ideal location for athletic events, reunions, festivals, boat shows, car shows, tournaments, outdoor concerts, and craft fairs.

- Views of Lake Lure and Rumbling Bald vistas
- A level multi-purpose field for festival events and other recreational uses
- Lighted courts for tennis and pickleball. One court will accommodate a tennis match or two pickleball matches. The second court is configured for two pickleball matches.
- A basketball court
- Children's play area including, slides, swings, and climbing apparatus
- Covered picnic tables with grills
- A friendly, fully-staffed visitor center for information on area attractions
- A network of over a mile of walking/jogging paths with benches along the way
- A large covered gazebo for events
- Two wooden wharfs
- Landscaped gardens
- Fishing areas along Rocky Broad River side as it empties into Lake Lure
- Wooded wetland areas and large pond for wildlife viewing and birding
- Restrooms
- Approximately 225 parking spaces
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)
- Nearby dining opportunities
- Would love to add this picture of the pickleball courts as well with Morse Park details.



Pool Creek Picnic Park

- 6 grills
- 5 picnic tables
- Access by boat
- Non-motorized boat launch
- Pet friendly (please keep dogs on a leash)
- Views of Lake Lure and surrounding mountains
- Nearby dining opportunities



Upper Boulders Trail

The Carolina Climbers Coalition partnered with the Town of Lake Lure to open a new boulder field and mini cliff within Buffalo Creek Park! This new 3-mile trail (1.5 miles each way) provides access to expanded bouldering and climbing opportunities within Buffalo Creek Park. The Upper Boulder Trail features a creek with cascades and a summit view. Note that this trail is open for hiking only.

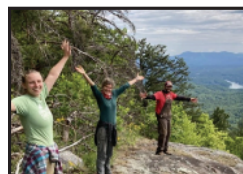
The Upper Boulders Trail has been installed by the Carolina Climbers Coalition to provide expanded bouldering and climbing opportunities within Buffalo Creek Park. This new trail was made possible through a partnership between the Town of Lake Lure, Carolina Climbers Coalition, and the Tourism Development Authority.

Access the Upper Boulders Trail from Buffalo Creek Park.



Washburn Marina

- Convenient boat launch
- Ample number of boat slips that include lighting, electrical outlets for emergency use, and security cameras
- Boat, canoe, and kayak rentals
- Lake tour boat excursions
- Ticket office, bathrooms and nearby dining opportunities
- Picnic tables and covered boat tour waiting area
- Shaded pergola area with beautiful landscaping
- Easy access to the Town Center Walkway and the quaint village of Chimney Rock



Youngs Mountain Trail

- Picturesque woodland streams and a small, splashing waterfall
- Abundant wildlife, including deer, bear, coyotes, bobcats, and flying squirrels
- Wildflowers, such as bloodroot, trillium, Carolina allspice, and native azaleas
- Rare moss and lichens on rock outcrops (don't step on them!)
- Multiple rock outcrops with gorgeous views, including dramatic overhanging rocks
- State-of-the-art sustainable trail building, including more than 300 stone or log steps
- Spectacular views from the summit overlooking Lake Lure, Rumbling Bald, and Weed Patch Mountain



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