

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman  
May 18, 2012  
Dedication – Burton Wells Regional Park, Phase II

Good morning and thank you for being here today. I am very pleased to take part in this event. Burton Wells Regional Park consists of 306 acres. In July of 1973, the property was deeded to Beaufort County from the United States Secretary of the Interior after being declared a surplus property.

In the late 1990's the County drafted a master plan to develop the park in phases. In the mid-2000, Phase I of the park's development was completed with a number of athletic fields, a multi-purpose building that includes the administrative offices, a gymnasium, a weight room, two handball courts, classrooms and an attached facility for seniors.

Phase II, which we are dedicating today, started in 2009, when your County Council awarded a contract to SGA Architecture to develop plans for another approximately 69 acres of the park. The community was engaged in two workshops for its input on passive recreational opportunities. From those sessions, concepts were developed that eventually became the base for the full development of a master plan for Phase II.

The amenities in Phase II include two lake pavilions with restrooms in the heart of the park for picnics or family gatherings, an amphitheater, a splash zone and a playground. This phase features a small boat dock for kayaks and canoes, and trails throughout the park for two miles of multi-use (walking, biking, running, etc.). There is primitive camping on the easternmost edge of the site to allow isolation. There are trails for walking through a wooded, natural landscape with pockets into open space for kite flying, star-gazing, etc. Fishing is encouraged.

The construction contract was approximately \$1,856,142, and it was awarded to Beaufort Engineering Services. In closing, I give special thanks and congratulations to our Parks and Leisure Services Board and County Administrator Gary Kubic and his County staff on the opening of this new phase of Burton Wells Regional Park. I give you, the taxpayers, special thanks for supporting development of the park, and am looking forward to your support as we begin development of Phase III, the final phase of the park. Thank you for coming, and I encourage you to enjoy your park.