

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACTIONS RELATED TO BINGHAM PARK  
REMEDATION PROJECT  
(Resolution B / Option B full remediation)

WHEREAS, Bingham Park is a 12-acre neighborhood park located at 500 Bingham Street, Greensboro that served the Cottage Grove, Willow Oaks, East Side Park, and other nearby communities from the 1970s through its full closure;

WHEREAS, from the 1920s until the 1950s a waste incinerator and pre-regulatory landfill operated on the property that later became Bingham Park;

WHEREAS, due to the operation of the incinerator and landfill, soil contamination occurred at Bingham Park and a portion of the former William M. Hampton Elementary School property located at 2301 Trade Street (hereafter, "Properties");

WHEREAS, testing led by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ("NC DEQ") and its contracted consultants have revealed that potential human exposure risks are present due to high concentrations of heavy metals including arsenic, iron, manganese, and lead and semi-volatile organic compounds in the soil on the properties, findings which are consistent with the operation of an incinerator;

WHEREAS, due to the history and contamination that is present, these properties will remain closed and unusable until soil remediation occurs, and the contamination may limit potential sale or redevelopment of portions of the former Hampton School property;

WHEREAS, in 2020 residents formed the Bingham Park Environmental Justice Team to educate the public and the surrounding neighborhoods about Bingham Park, build awareness, and receive ideas, and the team supports the reconstruction of a new park on location and full remediation, including soil removal;

WHEREAS, in consultation with the NC DEQ the City has considered several options for addressing the contamination present at Bingham Park including limited waste relocation with a cover system, stream bank stabilization, and tree restoration, which is a less costly option than full remediation;

WHEREAS, the full remediation of Bingham Park, specifically removing all contaminated soil, has been consistently identified by both the Environmental Justice Team and area residents as the preferred option;

WHEREAS, at its February 8, 2023, meeting, the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation from staff and members of the Bingham Park Environmental Justice Team and voted to express its support of full remediation of Bingham Park, allowing for a complete rebuild of a park at this location without limitations as to amenities that can be developed;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro has been working with local, state, and federal officials to support and fund the cause of full remediation of Bingham Park and has led preliminary park planning efforts including community engagement to look at future uses of the property;

WHEREAS, the NC DEQ has pledged \$7 million towards the remediation of the property through its pre-regulatory landfill program, \$1.05 million in federal Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development funds has been allocated, and State House Bill 259 includes up to an \$11 million allocation to be split between remediation projects at Bingham Park and downtown Greensboro sites at the City's discretion with Council authorization;

WHEREAS, following exploration by staff of the City's Office of Sustainability and Resilience and the Parks and Recreation and Solid Waste and Recycling Departments into potential waste disposal locations for the Bingham Park remediation, three landfills were identified which could potentially accept this project specific waste: Great Oak Landfill, Uwharrie Landfill, and White Street Landfill;

WHEREAS, after several public meetings and gathering feedback, it has been determined that White Street Landfill is not a recommended or preferred option due to its history, location, and current permit limitations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO that:

- The City supports full remediation, or removal of all contaminated soil and waste, at Bingham Park and the former Hampton School site;
- The City authorizes the allocation of \$10,000,000 of the funds received for remediation from State House Bill 259 to support full remediation of the Properties;
- The City is committed to finding ways to fund the balance of full remediation of the Properties once project costs are finalized following the development of the remedial action plan and final confirmation of NC DEQ funding available for the project;
- The City supports the use of a properly permitted and lined municipal solid waste landfill other than White Street Landfill to receive waste from the Properties;
- The City expresses its full support for the construction of a new neighborhood park at Bingham Park; and
- The City hereby authorizes the initiation of the development of the remedial action plan for the Properties consistent with the parameters of this resolution and supports review of the plan by the NC DEQ along with the preparation of the associated bid documents necessary to conduct full remediation of the Bingham Park site and contaminated areas of the former Hampton School site.