

# Roaming Around Reidsville

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It still amazes me that so many people have lived in Reidsville and Rockingham County all their lives and have never experienced Lake Reidsville Park located at 630 Water Works Road. We think of it as one of the area's "hidden gems", known more by visitors to Rockingham County than our own residents.

A water bond referendum was held in 1971, passing by an 18-1 ratio, which was unheard of in those days. The passage meant a secure water source for the City of Reidsville for years to come, along with the promise of recreational opportunities opening up for the City's residents and visitors. It would be 12 years later before the grand opening was held for Lake Reidsville Recreation Park, but it was well worth the wait.

Over the years the amenities provided at the park have grown. The 750-acre lake and 86 acres of park area offer fishing, boating and water skiing, along with a campground geared for primitive or tent camping up to those sites with available water and sewer hookup and RV pull through options. Horseshoes, a basketball court and other attractions have been added over the years. A state-of-the-art 18-hole disc golf course, Lake's Edge, added in 2007, draws tournaments and has led to the establishment of a Disc Golf Club with monthly tournaments. Kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, pedal boats and Corcis have been added to the lake's activities, which are available for rental at the Lake Store. Recent or soon-to-be changes at the park have included the addition of WiFi for the campground, rebuilt horseshoe pits and a refurbished basketball court.

## **Collaborations & Partnerships**

In 2000, due to the generosity of Susan Boyd and her family, an amphitheater was built on site for concerts and other activities in memory of Susan's father, Howard Boyd, a former owner of B&G Glass. The stage has become a focal point of many of the activities held out at the lake over the years.

This amphitheater has proven to be a real asset at Lake Reidsville, especially when July and the **Independence Day Celebration** rolls around. This year, the Independence Day event is planned for Saturday, July 6, 2019, from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This patriotic event is always popular and will be capped off this year with a performance by *The Band of Oz*



**The Amphitheater** at Lake Reidsville is used for many community events. On May 19, the Wives of the Blue Line held a Memorial Service for Fallen Officers, which included a balloon release.

and a spectacular fireworks show.

For the City of Reidsville, many of our events and amenities have come about because of partnerships created with other organizations and individuals as well as the pursuit of grant opportunities. It was a \$25,000 grant from the Rockingham County Community Foundation, set up by a donation from the Duke Energy Foundation, which allowed Lake Reidsville to revamp its former playground area. The new playground, established in 2017, combines technology and physical activity to encourage those ages 5-12 to use the playground equipment. A cell phone application, Biba, is used to play games on the equipment.

Due to the generosity of the Murray family, the City has approximately 40 acres of land adjacent to Lake Reidsville that is being developed for public use and will grow Lake Reidsville Park. The City has been working on these plans with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) as part of the Pathways 2.0 initiative, which is made possible by the Reidsville Area Foundation and DRBA municipal members to develop outdoor recreation across Rockingham County.

These plans for this additional property will build on existing trails already in place at Lake Reidsville. In March of 2018, the new walking and mountain biking trails were unveiled, also due to the City's collaboration with DRBA. Walkers or bike enthusiasts can travel from one mile up to three miles, depending on the route taken. Lake Reidsville is also on the North Carolina Birding Trail so you can also be on the lookout for a variety of our fine feathered friends as you walk!

The City and the Parks & Rec staff, led by Assistant City Manager of Community Services Haywood Cloud and Recreation Superintendent Fred Thompson, are always looking for ways to improve all of the City's recreational offerings, including Lake Reidsville Park. Plans were made at the 2018 Annual Budget Retreat to add a splash pad, a jump pillow/pad and mini-golf to the lake in the near future once municipal sewer is extended to Lake Reidsville Park.

City staff is also working hard to get the Mountains-to-Sea Trail to pass through Reidsville and Rockingham County. The trail would come through Reidsville via the lake property. The City is collaborating with DRBA and other entities to make this happen. We hope to be talking more about this soon.

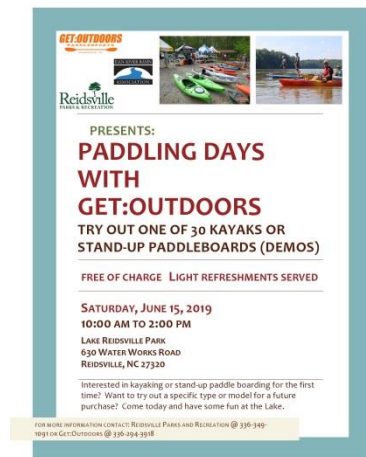
### **Upcoming Lake Events in June**

The first day of June brings the annual **Kids Fishing Rodeo** for those aged 12 and under. The event kicks off June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 11:30 a.m. Many of these lake events are free, and you can call the lake store at 336-349-4738 for more details!

We are excited about a new two-day **Training Day Football Camp** that Reidsville Parks & Rec is initiating at Lake Reidsville. On hand will be Natrone Means, a former NFL player and WSSU Offensive Coordinator. For ages 6-17, the camp is slated for Monday and Tuesday, June 10-11, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Interested? You must sign your child up at the Reidsville Recreation

Department for this free camp, which not only stresses football skills but also how to go through the NCAA acceptance process. Baseball and softball camps will be announced soon.

Collaborations continue to benefit Lake Reidsville and the City of Reidsville. The lake is now on the North Carolina Fishing Trail. Hunter Martin, a Boy Scout with Troop 701, chose to design a bass fishing trail at the lake for his Eagle Scout project. He worked with the City, members of N.C. B.A.S.S. and fellow Scouts on the trail last year. A **Grand Opening Ceremony for the Fishing Trail** is planned for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Lake Reidsville Park. The public is invited and will be able to take a pontoon boat ride to several of the fishing trail catch areas.



A partnership with Get: Outdoors means a **Paddling/Demo Day** out at the lake on Saturday, June 15. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., visitors to the lake for the event will get the chance to try one of 30 kayaks or stand-up paddle boats provided by Get: Outdoors out of Greensboro. We hope the weather cooperates with us as well!

An **American Revolution Living History Re-Enactment** returns to Lake Reidsville on Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Along with demonstrations by an artillery unit, there will be examples of camp life, cannon and musket firing, battle tactics, cooking and period games for visitors to see.

Several **fishing tournaments** are planned during June at Lake Reidsville, and most do have a cost associated with them. On Saturday, June 8, a Big Bass Tourney will be held beginning at daylight. The cost is \$15.00 per person. On Saturday, June 15, at 6 p.m., a Night Catfish Tournament is set at a cost of \$10 per person. Beginning at daylight on Saturday, June 22, a Crappie Fishing Tournament is slated, but this tourney is free. Again, just call the lake store at 336-349-4738 for more details.

Also happening in other parts of the City during June:

- On Saturday, June 1, the **Reidsville Kickoff Event for GET FIT ROCKINGHAM** will be held at 9 a.m. in downtown Reidsville. Meet at the front of the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce building, 140 South Scales Street, for a historical walk through Reidsville's lovely downtown commercial district. Arrive earlier to sign up from 8-9 a.m. GET FIT ROCKINGHAM is a 12-week countywide fitness event designed to get you moving!
- On Saturday, June 8, the first ever **Ms. Senior Rockingham County Pageant** will be held at RCARE/Senior Center beginning at 2 p.m. We are sure this will turn into an annual event so come on out and support the contestants.
- Friday, June 14: **Second Downtown Fridays** continues in June. Come enjoy the music at Mural Park, kids activities, food and classic cars & trucks. The fun, sponsored by Team Reidsville, Reidsville Downtown Corporation and Reidsville Chamber of Commerce, is from 6-9 p.m. The

event ends with the Movie @ Market Square: *Finding Dory*, beginning around dusk/9:15 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket for this free movie on the lawn at Market Square.

- The Reidsville Police Department is hosting a **Church Safety Workshop** on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. until noon. The workshop will be held at the Salvation Army located at 704 Barnes Street.
- The Reidsville Police Department will be holding its **2019 Junior Police Academy** June 17-28. Registration ended in late May.
- Saturday, June 22: **Music @ Market Square** will kick off its 2019 Summer Concert series with **Nantucket**, the legendary Southern rock band. Bring a chair or blanket for this free concert from 7-9 p.m. The beer garden will be open, and there will be games to keep the children entertained.
- And throughout the month of June, every Monday and Wednesday: **Fitness on the Square @ Market Square featuring Zumba** from 6-7 p.m. This free class is sponsored by Annie Penn Hospital. No rhythm required!
- Every Tuesday and Thursday: **Fitness on the Square @ Market Square, this time with Yoga** from 6-7 p.m. Bring a mat or towel and water. Again, these classes are sponsored by Annie Penn Hospital.