

What to do about Sesquicentennial Park?

Chelsea Glen Dickey	Jennifer Talley	Questions	Daniel Alvis	Bobby Chin	Randy Phillips	Jim Young
13. Keep.	13. See explanation below	13. In general, do you favor keeping Sesquicentennial Park where it is, on the northwest corner of Court Square, or moving it elsewhere?	13. Yes, keep Sesquicentennial Park where it is. People bought in to that property, chose there.	13. Move.	13. Keep.	13. Keep.
13a. Graham received a \$600,000 grant from NC for downtown revitalization. This could fund park repairs. Bids received in April 2025 (\$379,425 & \$470,701) fall within \$600,000, requiring no additional city funds. Currently, Talley wants to use funds to redo stamped patterns on crosswalks instead of fixing park.	13a. During a recent budget session, we learned that repairs to the park would exceed six figures, raising the question of whether to use fund balance or raise taxes. I have personal memorial bricks in the park and have been an advocate for historic preservation in downtown Graham for over 25 years.	13a. If keep, how would you propose to pay for the repairs necessary to fix the park's sinking foundation? [50 word limit]	13a. Grant funds that have not been designated by a majority of the city council could be a resource, and I believe there is some "sweat equity" available in the community if we wanted to make this a "weekend warrior" project over the course of several months.	13a. —	13a. Look for any state and or grant funding that can be used for the repair of the park.	13a. We should explore grant funding, public-private partnerships, or modest budget allocations. Most importantly, we should let the public weigh in – possibly through a voter referendum.
13b. All repairs should be well within the \$600,000 State grant that was awarded to Graham.	13b. Based on estimates and contingencies we have received, I think we would have to budget \$600,000 because the basement would need to be dug out in order to properly fix it. If it is moved to the other side of the block, I believe it would cost approximately \$100,000	13b. If keep, what, if any, maximum cost do you believe would be appropriate to repair the park?	13b. Has an actual cost estimate been established? Have actual repair needs and plans been developed?	13b. —	13b. \$500,000.	13b. A capped, transparent amount – ideally under \$350,000 – with public input and a clear plan for long-term value and community use.
13c. The city likely has not explored modern technologies due to limited staff resources, budget priorities, & reliance on traditional repair methods. Talley is not presenting apples-to-apples cost comparisons for the community at council meetings. Council's intent appears to be moving forward with relocation, which explains the lack of exploration.	13c. I asked about this and was told that because there is wood and debris under the park that continues to deteriorate over time, this might not be a viable solution, but I am open to any ideas on how we can repair the park more cost effectively and without raising taxes.	13c. Several people have suggested that there are potential modern technologies that might be used to shore up and stabilize the foundation, which wouldn't require digging up the entire site. Why, in your view, has the city not explored these options? [50 word limit]	13c. Very good question. I believe there are compaction and encapsulation techniques that could stabilize the property.	13c. —	13c. The mayor had stated that she had not heard of these technologies.	13c. N.A.
13d. The park should remain in its original location, preserving its historic and community significance rather than relocating it elsewhere.	13d. I would like to see it stay downtown but again I want to do what the majority of citizens are in favor of so that is why it is important to get their feedback.	13d. If move, where would you propose that it be relocated? [25 word limit]	13d. You ...move the elements of a park, like gazebo, bricks. I don't propose moving the elements, I would like park to stay where it is.	13d. Relocate to the rear of the Graham Historical Museum and solicit proposals, with artistic sketches, to re-imagine a park that is not constrained by the current park dimensions or design.	13d. —	13d. N.A.
13e. I oppose relocating the park to the courtyard behind the Graham Historical Museum....	13e. I am undecided. I will support what the majority wants and that is why we are asking for input and doing a city survey.	13e. One citizen's recent suggestion was that the park should be relocated to a courtyard behind the Graham Historical Museum. Would you support or oppose such a relocation to this site?	13e. I don't propose moving the park.	13e. Support.	13e. Oppose.	13e. —
13f. I oppose relocating the park adjacent to the Graham Civic Center.	13f. Same answer as above.	13f. Another suggestion has been that it should be moved adjacent to the Graham Civic Center. Would you support or oppose such a relocation to this site?	13f. I don't propose moving the park.	13f. Oppose.	13f. Oppose.	13f. —
13g. I oppose moving the park, so the current property should remain as is, preserving its historical value and continued use for the community.	13g. Again, I will vote for whatever the majority of citizens want and that is why we need input.	13g. If move, what should be done with the current property? [25 word limit]	13g. I don't propose moving the park.	13g. We are still receiving input now. My position would be to declare the property surplus, solicit proposals for development of the property with conditions.	13g. —	13g. –