



Town of Beaufort, NC

701 Front St. - P.O. Box 390 - Beaufort, N.C. 28516
252-728-2141 - 252-728-3982 fax - www.beaufortnc.org

Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:30 PM Thursday, May 02, 2024 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

Agenda Approval

Minutes Approval

Public Comment

Items for Discussion and Consideration

- [1.](#) Beaufort Garden Club's Proposal for Grayden Paul Park

Staff Comments

Board Comments

Adjourn

The BGC and its' Beautification Committee would like to propose updating Grayden Paul Park honoring the parks unique history involving a derelict sharpie schooner, Beaufort Historical Association and Grayden Paul. Please read about the history via Grayden's grandson Allan Paul who is the family historian. There are other persons who also have more historical information to offer. Attached are pictures of the Alphonso the Museum Of The Sea and a couple of aerial photos showing the old post office dock and the location of the Alphonso.

Move along to the 2 overhead drawings one is the view of the current park and the other is with proposed updates. A screenshot of the GIS map was taken and then highlighted with sharpie marker and colored pencil.

Subject: Re: Garden Club inquiry about Grayden Paul Park history

Hello Monica: Thanks for reaching out to me about the Grayden Paul Park and its predecessor the Alphonso "Museum of the Sea". The Beaufort Garden Club has done a great job beautifying the Town lot over many years. I always admire your Club's work on my morning walks past the site.

My grandfather created the museum as part of the Town of Beaufort's 250th and 251st anniversary celebrations in 1959 and 1960. He was head of the Beaufort Merchant's Association at the time and they were the primary sponsors of the celebrations. My grandfather was also one of the co-founders of the Beaufort

Historical Association which was also heavily involved in the 250th and 251st anniversary events.

Prior to 1959 the Town parcel of land that is now the Grayden Paul Park looked just like today's shore area between the kayak storage rack and the ferry dock. My grandfather raised the Alphonso from her watery grave across from the Sanitary Restaurant in Morehead City and towed her to Beaufort in late 1959. He pulled her up on the beach at the end of Pollock Street and jacked her up level with Front Street. Then he built a wooden bulkhead and used many dump truck loads of fill dirt to create the level lot that today encompasses the park.

There is a very good historical description of the workboat Alphonso on the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center web site (www.core_sound.com), as well as a nice short oral history recording of Pam Morris talking about the Alphonso which was once owned and operated by her great grandfather.

Pam also talks about Grayden Paul saving the Alphonso. Pam's grandmother and my grandfather were first cousins. The Downeast sawmill where the Alphonso's lumber was cut was owned by some Willis first cousins of my grandfather. Zeff Willis, who built the Alphonso for Capt. Dosh Davis of Davis, NC, was also related to my grandfather Paul. Interestingly my other grandfather George Laughton made several sales trips on the Alphonso as a teenager escorting crops like watermelons from the Laughton farm on Newport River to markets in New Bern.

For the 18 years the Alphonso museum operated (1960-1978) the lot was only planted in grass. I mowed it many times with a push mower for a quarter!!! There was no landscaping. The three large Live Oak trees that are on the lot today were planted by the Town soon after the museum closed in 1978 and the boat was burned as a training exercise by the Beaufort Fire Department.

Catherine Cloud longtime head of the Beaufort Historical Association suggested to the Town Commissioners that the Alphonso lot be turned into a Town park and named in honor of my grandfather. Soon after the Commissioners approved it (1979?) the Town and the Beaufort Garden Club came up with the current design and implemented it, including the installation of the gazebo. About 25 years ago the Town replaced my grandfather's original wood bulkhead around the lot with the concrete bulkhead that surrounds it today. That is also when the Town installed the nice public dock.

I have a 1960 photo of the Alphonso and its barren grass lot I'd be happy to show you sometime.

When my grandfather turned 79 he told the Town he was too old to maintain and operate the museum anymore. He had done so entirely on a volunteer basis for 18 years with no compensation.

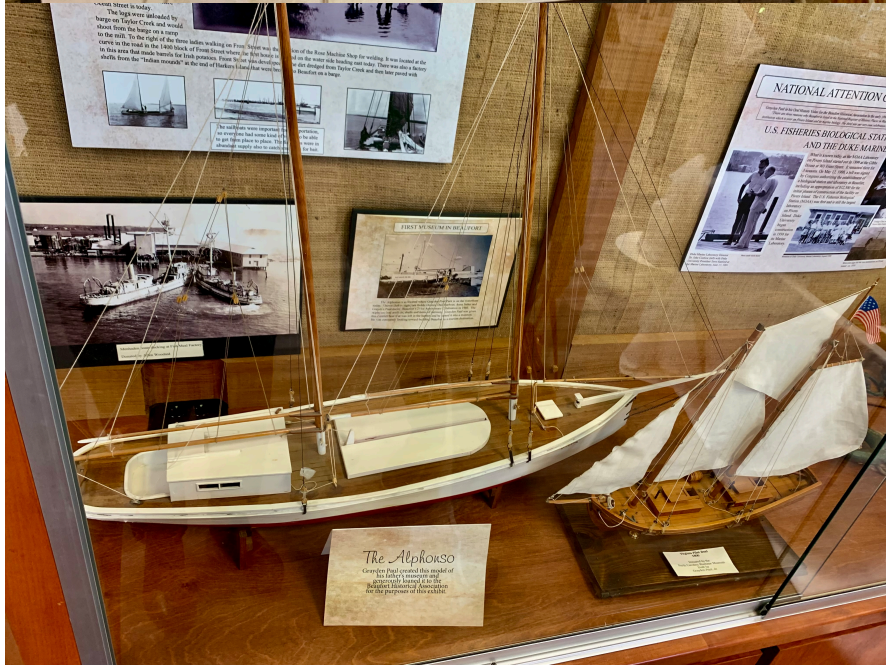
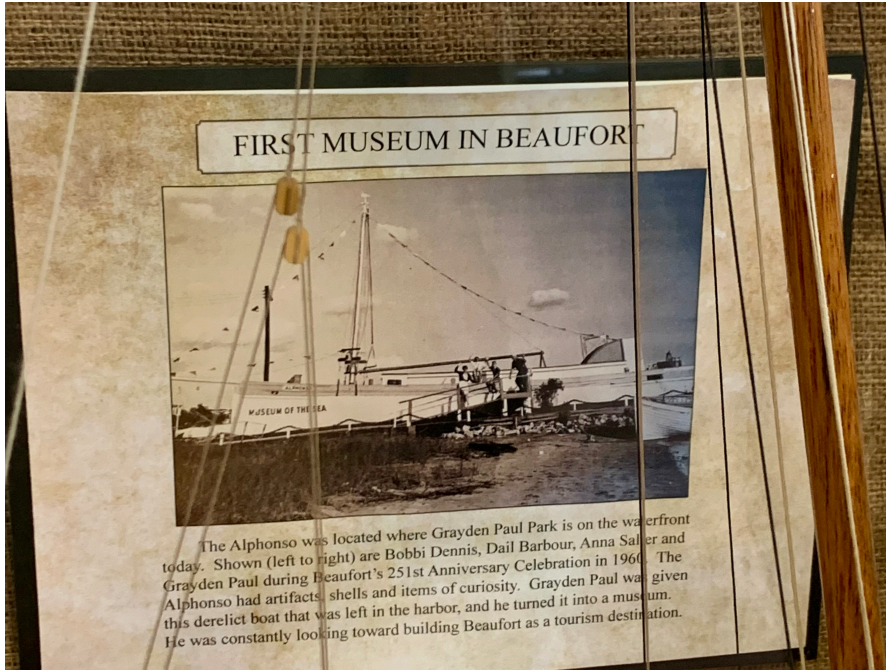
Lots of Beaufort folks have many fond memories of the Alphonso and the annual "Pirate Invasion" that took place next to it.

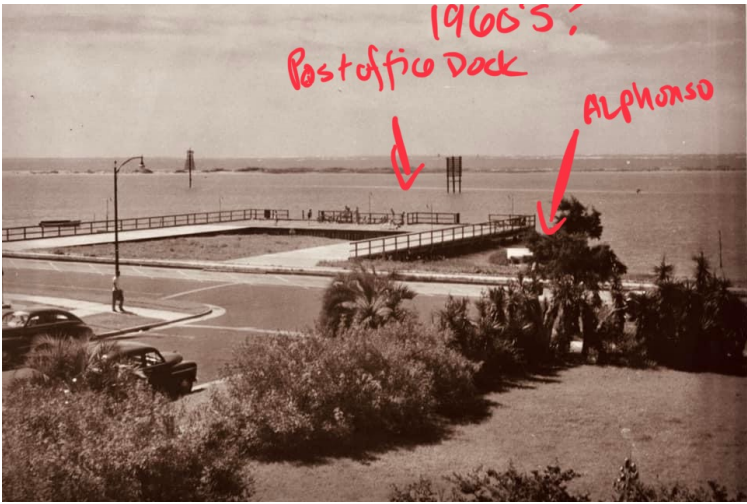
Fortunately the historic artifacts that were displayed in the Alphonso were given by my grandfather to the NC Maritime Museum.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing the Garden Club's makeover of the park.

You are welcome to share this email with other members of your club. I hope you don't mind but I have cc'd a bunch of my relatives on this email so they may enjoy this recounting of the Alphonso and the Grayden Paul Park.

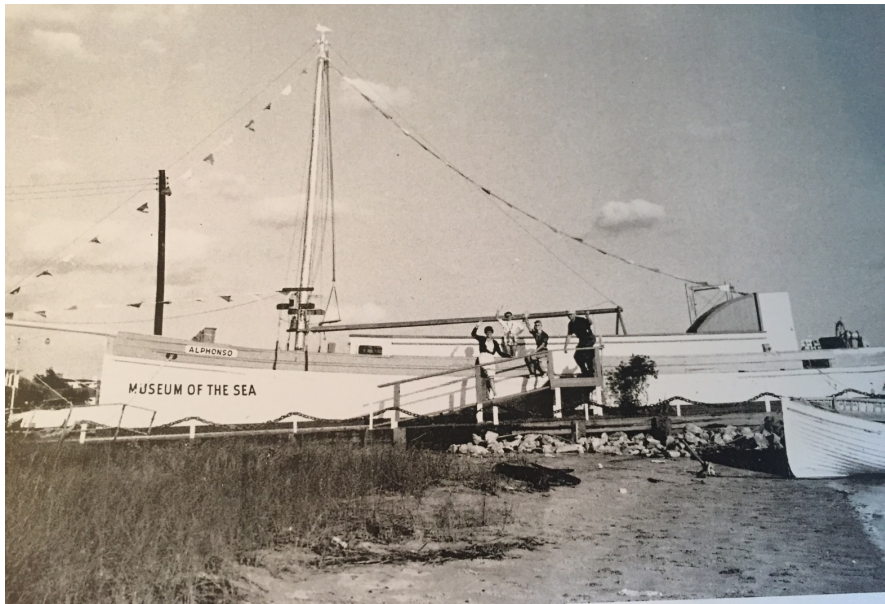
Happy Holidays, Allan Paul
Located at Beaufort Historic Association.





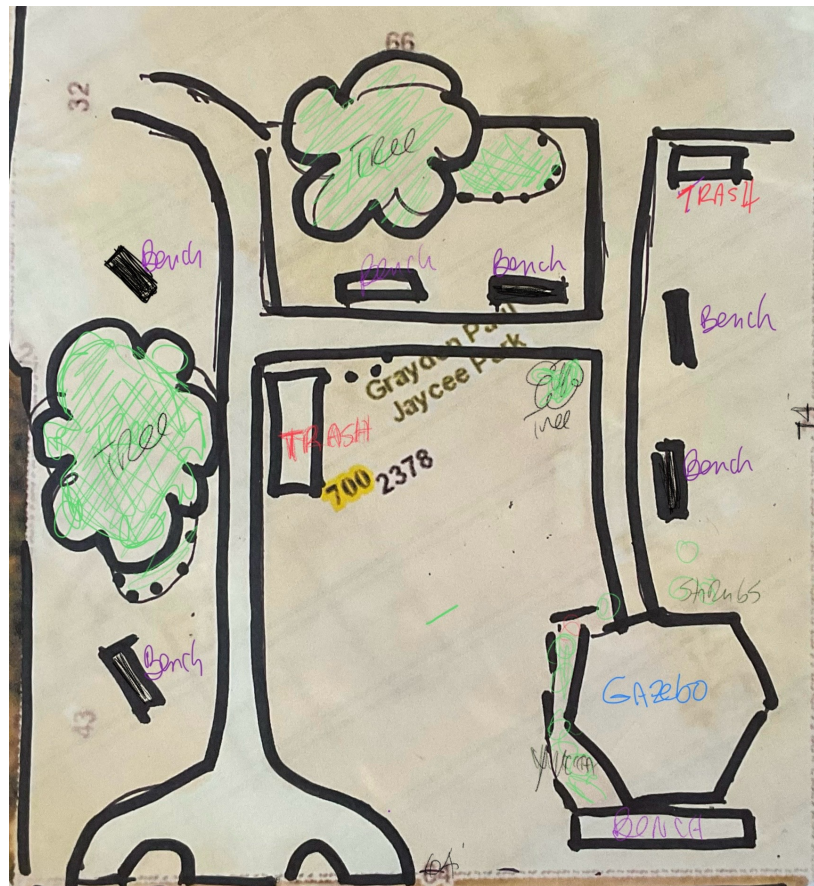
Caption





There are still residents here who used to work on the Alphonso when they were teenagers and admission was charged to see the treasures inside. The Alphonso is a sharpie schooner. The sharpie boat was very important to the area for communication, trade, and tourist industry.

The is the current overview of GP Park. There is a large trash can in a prominent location. A large open central open area that is in full sun most of the day. The existing gardens are hand watered three times per week for approximately 6 months by the BGC Beautification volunteers.





You can see the remnant of the old post office dock behind this unique bench. This is a great spot to view the creek and horses.

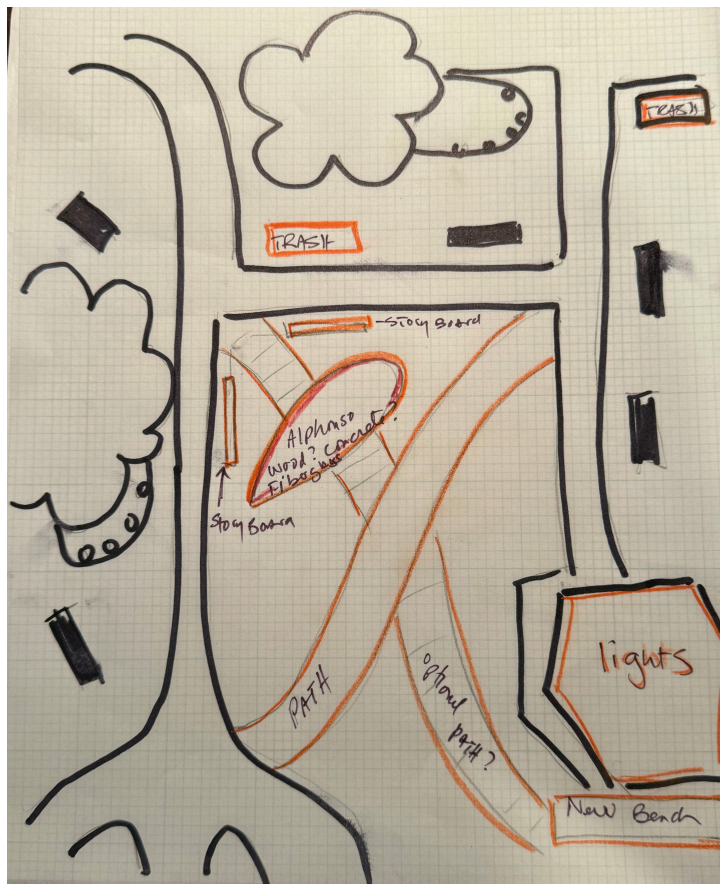
This overview of GP Park is of changes that would be desirable to accomplish in parts or whole. The BGC and Beautification Committee openly accept any suggestions and expertise in this matter. The BGC proposes to add the historical perspective with necessary story boards and acquiring a sharpie style boat planter that best replicates the Alphonso. The preferred location for this boat planter is shown in the drawing. We do not have a cost estimate at this time for the storyboards nor the boat planter.

The rest of the proposed upgrades would be accomplished by the Town of Beaufort. These upgrades include the following:

- 1- Move the 3 bin trash can to a less visible location such as the empty concrete pad in front of the pittosporum shrubs .
- 2- Consider new edging for the existing gardens that can be extend to any new areas requiring edging. So the ending is uniform.
- 3- Lights for the Gazebo.
- 4- New waterfront bench in front of the Gazebo. Lower seat height.
- 5 - Rotary GP sign - If removed redesign the street view landscaping with help from the Beautification Committee. The other option is to paint the sign with the uniform sign colors like The Randolph Johnson Park sign.
- 6- Main diagonal pathway will add interest and address the wear pattern from persons not using the existing walkways. Built from concrete or other hardscape material that compliments the overall aesthetics.
- 7- Optional pathway that connects the Alphonso boat planter from the other corner to the water view bench. Possibly different material or texture than the other walkways. Again would add visual interest and address wear patterns.
- 8- Drip watering system to be able increase the success of planted areas and reduce hand watering efforts. System designed such that extension scan be added as need for future landscaping.

9- Level the area in front of benches that have compressed over the years and / or any other areas that need leveling prior to new paths etc..

10- Consider planting another Liveoak for future shade.



Respectfully submitted by,

BGC- Beautification Chair, Monica Hunter