

WHAT'S ALL THE "BUZZ" ABOUT STINGER PARK?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS STINGER PARK?

The long-awaited Stinger Park is an active and passive recreational park currently under construction in Bessemer City, North Carolina.

Stinger Park is more than just a community park. It was designed to serve as an inter-generational community gathering place and a destination competitive sporting complex that provides an array of engagement and enrichment opportunities through health, wellness, cultural, and educational stimulation for all socio-economic communities.



The City has also designed Stinger Park to be an economic development engine for the community. The Park is not only a desirable amenity, but also an identity-maker for the City, its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Through this process, Stinger Park aims to create a buzz, attracting visitors, new residents, hotels, businesses, and foster economic investment, all while improving quality of life for Bessemer City's current residents.



WHERE IS STINGER PARK LOCATED?

Stinger Park's entrance is off North 12th Street, located behind Bessemer City Primary School, on Stinger Park Drive.

WHEN WILL STINGER PARK OPEN?

Stinger Park is tentatively set to open in mid- to late 2022. Keep up with progress on this project by [visiting our website!](#)

WHY IS IT NAMED STINGER PARK?

The name "Stinger Park" reflects our proximity to and close relationship with the Bessemer City Primary School "Honeybees", the Central Elementary "Busy Bees", and the Bessemer City High School "Yellow Jackets". Given that the new park is so closely tied to the "bee themed" schools within the City, we felt it was only fitting to carry forward this theme into the park branding and thus "Stinger Park".

Additionally, the name Stinger Park was coined because the project is meant to create a meaningful and lasting impact in the community. Serving as a catalyst for growth and protective economic investment for the community for decades to come.

Finally, a big part of the buzz about Stinger Park will be its honeybee educational element. The [Gaston County Beekeepers Association](#) will be working with Bessemer City to incorporate bee-themed educational components throughout the park. Informational kiosks are expected to appear throughout the park to educate the public on bees.





WHY IS STINGER PARK IMPORTANT?

Accessible to all who visit, Stinger Park will improve the quality of life and physical health of Bessemer City residents, and it will attract competitive sports team to utilize its future facilities for events, bringing visitors weekly to Bessemer City. Stinger Park fills a deep need for a destination park in the community that will allow outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages. Its ecological features will provide educational opportunities for our neighboring schools and help the environment at the same time.

Not only is it a desirable and needed amenity for the community, but also an identity-maker for the City, its residents, businesses, and visitors. Stinger Park will certainly be a memorable place for all who visit.

Stinger Park aims to attract visitors, new residents, and business, and foster economic investment while providing an array of engagement and enrichment opportunities through health, wellness, cultural, and educational stimulation for all socio-economic communities. The City will also benefit from opportunities to host baseball, softball, and other competitive sports tournaments along with entertainment-related events.

WHO CAN USE THE PARK?

Stinger Park is open to everyone! Residents of Bessemer City, Gaston County, and visitors alike.

WHAT DOES STINGER PARK INCLUDE?

Planned amenities for Stinger Park include:

- 25 acres of planned recreational development in Phase I, with as much as 18 additional acres set aside for future development.
- Three lighted diamond championship tournament-style baseball/softball fields. The fields will be built to high school regulations but will also include areas for temporary fencing to accommodate younger ages. Fields will host regional tournament leagues and be accessible to the public.
- Two multipurpose fields for football and soccer. These fields will also be used by local recreation and youth sports leagues, tournament leagues, and the public.
- Two pickleball courts.
- Two tennis courts which can also be converted to two additional pickleball courts
- Approximately 3,550 linear feet of walking paths and trails. The greenway planned for the park (following Gibson Branch Creek) will eventually connect further into the community as part of a larger greenway network, including the Carolina Thread Trail.
- Splash pad.
- Two playground areas that will include handicapped-accessible features. One will be geared to children 5 and younger, and the other will be geared toward children 5-12 years old.





- Field house with concessions and a secondary concessions area. These will be available during tournaments and other large-scale events.
- ADA-accessible restrooms.
- Festival area.
- Permanent cornhole courts.
- Picnic area.
- 255 parking spaces.
- Maintenance facility.

HOW IS THE STINGER PARK PROJECT BEING FUNDED?

Bessemer City is investing [approximately \\$8.8 million](#) to provide a quality park to residents and visitors. The completed park will stimulate business and tax revenue growth through increased spending by tourists and visitors, while also encouraging overall economic development by strengthening our base of local attractions and amenities and making it an even more desirable place to live. Project partner that have helped make Stinger Park possible include:

- \$7.8 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds
- \$500,000 North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant
- \$500,000 Gaston County Township Grant (CaroMont Health)
- Gaston County School Board land lease

WHAT IS THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE?

Construction [began with a groundbreaking in March 2021](#) and is expected to be completed in mid-to-late 2022.

WILL STINGER PARK BE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE?

Yes. Stinger Park will have ADA-accessible restrooms, playgrounds, and parking, along with a network of sidewalks.

HOW DOES STINGER PARK BENEFIT LOCAL SCHOOLS?

While Stinger Park is not directly affiliated with nearby schools, its location does provide easy access to students of the two schools. This access not only presents supplemental exercise opportunities through playground equipment and open space, but also possible usage and access for local school sports teams such as baseball, softball, soccer, pickleball and tennis.



WHAT DOES THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN LOOK LIKE?

Please follow this link to the [Bessemer City website](#) to view a park design and for more information.

HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT BECOMING A SPONSOR/ DONOR?

Contact Bessemer City Parks & Recreation at (704) 629-5111. Additional information on sponsorship opportunities will be posted on the [Parks & Recreation section](#) of the Bessemer City website.

CAN I STILL ACCESS OTHER STINGER PARK AMENITIES DURING TOURNAMENTS?

Yes. Stinger Park has numerous uses and options for recreation and will remain open for visitors during tournament events.

HOW DOES STINGER PARK FIT INTO THE TOWN'S LONG-TERM PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND SYSTEM-WIDE PEDESTRIAN PLAN?

Stinger Park is part of Bessemer City's desire to not only promote healthy living and exercise for its residents and visitors, but also strengthen Bessemer City's competitiveness while positioning Bessemer City for sustained economic growth, resiliency, and prosperity.

The Park will have an enormous community impact, providing traditional park amenities, as well as recreational opportunities not usually found in smaller city's parks. Additionally, the City's Parks and Recreation Survey noted that 31% of respondents wanted improved outdoor facilities, 16% wanted more trails and 13% wanted new restrooms, all of which will be available at Stinger Park.

Connectivity and walkability will be enhanced through the Park and future development. The greenway planned for the park (following Gibson Branch Creek) will eventually connect further into the community as part of a larger greenway network, including the Carolina Thread Trail. More walkable networks are being considered as well, to link other parts of the Bessemer City community to the new park. Additionally, plans are being considered to extend the sidewalk from Bessemer City High School to the site of the planned entrance to Stinger Park.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF STINGER PARK?

Stinger Park is a life enhancing experience that allows all socio-economic communities to swarm together through health, wellness, and cultural elements that ultimately improve quality of life for the community and betters the environment for building a colony of success in Bessemer City.

IF WE HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THIS PROJECT, WHO CAN WE CONTACT?

Contact Bessemer City Parks & Recreation at (704) 629-5111 or [complete the online form at the bottom of this page](#).

NEWS ARTICLES RELATED TO STINGER PARK:

- ❖ Construction of \$9 million park in Bessemer City begins (Gaston Gazette): <https://bit.ly/3xJXVMM>
- ❖ USDA participates in groundbreaking at Stinger Park: <https://bit.ly/3xTCYPR>

