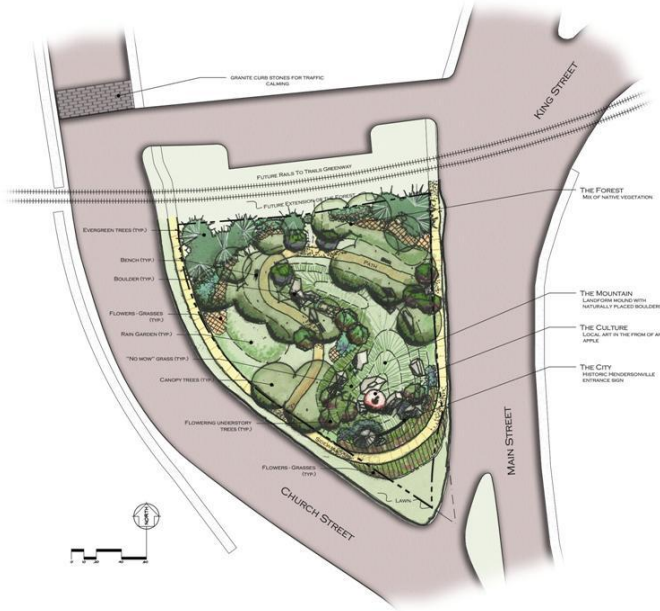


City of Hendersonville Park & Greenspace Master Plan



Vision Statement: Hendersonville values parks and greenspaces throughout the city because they promote a healthier lifestyle, provide protection of natural resources and enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities.

City of Hendersonville
Park & Greenspace Master Plan



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July 7, 2011

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The concept of public parks started to grow in the mid 1800's and the person most associated with this concept is Frederick Law Olmstead, who during those early years designed New York's Central Park and many others located throughout the United States. The original purpose of a public park was to provide relief from dense overcrowded urban environments. The public park was intended to improve a person's physical and psychological health by providing a place for people to breathe fresh air, relax and reconnect with the natural environment.

Public parks today serve many more functions. Not only do parks provide a place to enjoy the natural environment, they also provide amenities such as specialized playing fields and courts, swimming pools, children's playgrounds, walking and biking trails, picnic and sitting areas, beaches, marinas and performance stages.

Since parks, recreational facilities, greenways and greenspaces are necessary to create and sustain a livable, dynamic and economically strong community, they are part of Hendersonville's essential services. Not only do parks make a community more enjoyable, they provide direct economic benefits because businesses, when considering a new location or expansion, increasingly evaluate a community's quality of life in order to attract and retain employees.

By developing this Park and Greenspace Master Plan, Hendersonville has a systematic approach to maintaining the existing park system while also identifying future opportunities to expand and improve the park system. The Plan also provides guidance on preserving greenspaces throughout the City.

Purpose and Scope

The Hendersonville Park and Greenspace Plan is the result of a twelve month effort by the City and its citizens to analyze existing park facilities and to develop a long-range plan for park improvements, new parks and preservation of greenspaces. Following the 2030 Comprehensive Plan recommendation to develop a park master plan, City Council appointed an eleven member Task Force to guide the development of the Plan. That process included an inventory of existing parks and City-owned vacant lands, public input, recommendations for future improvements to existing parks and City-owned vacant lands, and funding possibilities.

Public Involvement

The City of Hendersonville held two public forums to gather input on existing park facilities and potential locations and types of future parks. A 32 question survey was developed and sent to residential properties within Hendersonville. Of those surveys, 564 were returned, resulting in an 11% response rate. Upon review of the demographics of survey responders, it was determined that 60% were from households with populations aged 50 and above. In order to capture information from households with

school aged children, surveys were distributed to public schools in Hendersonville. A total of 637 surveys were returned from the schools.

Chapter 4 includes the results of the surveys in graphic form. The residential mailing responses and the school responses are tallied separately. The complete survey and all responses are included in Appendix A. Following are some highlights from the survey.

- ❖ Existing quality of recreation facilities were rated excellent to good by 63% of the residential property respondents and 59% of school respondents.
- ❖ When asked if there are a sufficient number and variety of park facilities, 42% of the residential property respondents and 51% of school respondents stated yes, while 36% of the residential property respondents and 33% of school respondents stated no.
- ❖ When asked whether there are sufficient parks and greenspace areas within walking distance from where one lives, 58% of the residential property respondents and 55% of school respondents stated no.
- ❖ When asked about supporting the expansion of the Oklawaha Greenway, 48% of the residential property respondents and 43% of school respondents stated yes. But more telling is that 38% of the residential property respondents and 45% of school respondents had no opinion. Given that walking trails ranked in the top four or better of requested additional recreation facilities, this may reflect the lack of knowledge about the Oklawaha Greenway and the need to actively promote the City's parks.
- ❖ When asked about supporting the conversion of the Ecusta rail line to a trail, 63% of the residential property respondents and 53% of school respondents stated yes, while 13% and 12%, respectively, stated no.
- ❖ Over two thirds of the respondents support the development of a downtown park/outdoor event space.
- ❖ Over two thirds of respondents support the City acquiring land for parks, and, two thirds of respondents support the City acquiring additional land for greenspace.
- ❖ When asked how to pay for new amenities in parks, 62% of the residential property respondents and 67% of school respondents suggested donations or grants.
- ❖ Although only 16% of the residential property respondents and 6% of school respondents recommended municipal bonds for new amenities in parks, when asked how they would vote on a bond referendum, 65% of the residential property respondents and 56% of school respondents stated they would either vote in favor or might vote in favor.

- ❖ When asked to list the top three reasons for living in Hendersonville, survey respondents repeatedly cited the beautiful natural environment, small town atmosphere, mild climate, and the friendly people of Hendersonville.

Recommendations

Chapter Six of the Plan has specific recommendations for individual parks and City-owned vacant parcels. Quality parks provide both active and passive recreational components though not necessarily at the same location. Active recreation amenities include playing fields/courts for sports such as baseball, soccer and tennis, children's playgrounds, bike paths and skate parks. Passive recreation usually requires minimal development and emphasizes the greenspace areas within a site. Passive recreation amenities include landscaped areas, gardens, lakes, walking trails, picnic areas and wildlife viewing.

Based on survey results and Task Force discussions, there is a desire for some very specific recreation amenities. Walking and bicycle paths, greenways, nature trails and off-leash dog parks ranked high in importance both from the survey that is part of this plan and the survey that was conducted as part of the planning process for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. An indoor pool, splash park, climbing wall, playgrounds and neighborhood parks also ranked high.

As is typical in many communities, including Hendersonville, there is the desire for soccer fields due to the continued rise in popularity of the sport among adolescents, teens and adults. The development of the Henderson County Soccer Association complex in Fletcher will help meet the demand for additional dedicated soccer fields.

Conclusion

The City of Hendersonville has 11 designated parks and one greenway ranging in size from ¼ acre to 60 acres. In addition, the City will be developing a new park located where Main Street intersects with Church Street and King Street, and, has completed conceptual plans for a park located on South Grove Street. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines indicate that the City has sufficient acreage set aside for parks based on the current population.

Upon review of the NRPA park amenity recommendations along with recommendations adjusted to reflect localized needs, certain park amenities are deficient or non-existent. There is a strong desire and need for an increase in paved and soft surface trails for walking and biking, playgrounds, off leash dog parks and picnic tables. There also exists a desire for pool type facilities including an indoor pool and splash park. Desire for a downtown park/outdoor event space was also indicated. Efforts to locate new park facilities should be concentrated in those areas that are currently underserved by not having park facilities within ½ mile. As park areas grow in number, size and complexity, creating a position for a park manager or park supervisor to coordinate maintenance is recommended.

Chapter 1

Introduction

The 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan Community Facilities Element and the Natural and Environmental Resources Element included an inventory of natural resources, open space areas and recreational resources. As part of the comprehensive planning process, community input was solicited. Community members provided comments both at public meetings and through a survey. Below is a general summation of this input.

- The community is generally satisfied with the quality of existing recreational facilities.
- The community identified a need for a greater number and variety of recreational facilities.
- The community identified a need for additional parks, particularly neighborhood parks.
- There is a significant desire for more biking and walking paths along with fitness trails, dog parks, local parks, playgrounds and an indoor pool.
- Many of the city parks are under-utilized and there appears to be a lack of knowledge of community facilities.
- There is a desire for sustainable development that preserves natural features, protects wildlife and maintains natural systems.

Community Facilities Vision Statement

Hendersonville will create a legacy of public facilities and efficient management of public services that supports a safe, healthy, attractive and fiscally sustainable community. Public safety facilities will expand to protect a growing population and business base. Parks and recreation facilities will grow to serve developing areas while improving connections to existing neighborhoods.

Natural & Environmental Resources Vision Statement

Hendersonville will be known for its success in protecting valuable open spaces and reducing its ecological footprint, maintaining the resources that first attracted residents to this community and supported its prosperity. Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas will protect citizens from natural hazards, improve water and habitat quality and contribute to an interconnected network of recreational open space. Local agriculture will continue to promote locally-grown food and will remain a strong cultural and economic component of the community. Low-impact development will promote clean air and water through energy efficiency, stormwater management and reduced waste. These ecological successes will maintain a healthy attractive community for current and future generations.

The 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted by City Council in April 2009, states in Strategy CF-5.1 to “develop a Park and Recreation Master Plan that identifies needs for recreation amenities, establishes a desired level of service and makes detailed recommendations for recreation improvements.”

At the City Council retreat in February 2010, City Council identified parks and greenspace as a foundation of a successful community and directed staff to develop a park and greenspace master plan to guide construction and development of existing and future parks and greenspaces within the city. City Council requested that the plan be completed by February 2011. In May 2010, City Council appointed a ten member Parks and Greenspace Master Plan Task Force to act as an ad hoc committee to guide the planning process. The Task Force was eventually increased to eleven members who met on a monthly basis starting in May 2010. The draft Park and Greenspace Master Plan was completed in June 2011. City Council adopted the plan on July 7, 2011.

Chapter 2

Community Profile

The City of Hendersonville, incorporated in 1847, is located in Western North Carolina and is the seat for Henderson County. Of the five incorporated municipalities in Henderson County, Hendersonville is the largest with a population of 13,135. Henderson County has a population of 104,000.

Henderson County is located in the Blue Ridge geographic area of North Carolina joining the Piedmont section along the southern Appalachian Range. The County consists of mountain ranges, isolated peaks, a rolling plateau and level valley areas. Elevations range from 1,400 feet near Bat Cave at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains to 4,412 feet on Little Pisgah Mountain.

Hendersonville's seven square miles are located in a valley that includes Mud Creek and Clear Creek along with other tributaries that all eventually flow into the French Broad River. Mud Creek bisects the city, flowing in a northwesterly direction, and includes a large floodway and 100 year floodplain. The majority of the 100 year floodplain remains either undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Hendersonville has a total of 99 acres divided among 10 parks. Additionally, Hendersonville has a two mile greenway that connects Henderson County's Jackson Park to Patton Park. Parks range in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to 60 acres. A sample of park amenities include an olympic-sized outdoor pool, skate park, baseball fields, multi-use fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts and walking trails.

In 1979, a Parks & Recreation Department was established with a director and staff. The Parks & Recreation Department was responsible for park programming and park maintenance. As a means to lower taxes, the Parks & Recreation Department was eliminated in June of 1995. Today, the Public Works Department is responsible for park maintenance and event scheduling.

The City of Hendersonville also holds title to a number of vacant properties located within the city limits. There are 18 parcels totaling 70 acres. These properties were reviewed as part of this park and greenspace planning process to determine their future potential.

Special mention should be given to Henderson County's Jackson Park due to the park being located less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Hendersonville's historic Main Street. Jackson Park consists of 212 acres and includes baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, a BMX track, picnic areas and walking trails.

School athletic facilities are available to the general public when not in use by students and recreational amenities are also provided by local non profits such as churches, the

YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. The athletic and non-athletic tables located on pages 51 and 52 reflect the specific types of facilities that are available.

Other recreational opportunities are available within a short distance from Hendersonville. Located nearby are Chimney Rock Park, Lake Lure, DuPont State Forest, Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Recreational opportunities include summer camps, golfing, hiking, camping, biking, fishing, rock climbing and whitewater kayaking.

Demographic Information

For more than a century, the Hendersonville area has been popular as a summer resort and health center and today is known as an attractive retirement location. This high retirement population is clearly reflected in the 2010 Census and the 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey.

Information from the 2010 US Census indicates a 19.7 percent increase in population in Henderson County from 2000 to 2010. Persons 65 or older make up 22.4 percent of Henderson County's population with the national average at 12.7 percent. Persons under 18 make up 20.9 percent of Henderson County's population with the national average at 24.3 percent. Since the Census Bureau does not sort data for communities with populations under 25,000, specific information for the City of Hendersonville is gathered from the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey is a survey that provides data every year. Information for the survey is used to determine how federal and state funds are distributed each year.

According to the American Community Survey demographic estimates, the median age for Hendersonville is 45, whereas the national median age is 36. Additionally, the percentage of the local population 65 years and older stands at 26.3 percent which is more than double the national average of 12.6 percent. The average household size is 2 people per household. Twenty-three percent of households reported having children under 18 years of age.

Clearly understanding the age makeup of a community's population is important in park planning as different age groups desire different types of park amenities. Additionally, the social, cultural and ethnic characteristics of a community are important as people from different backgrounds will desire different types of park amenities.

Chapter 3

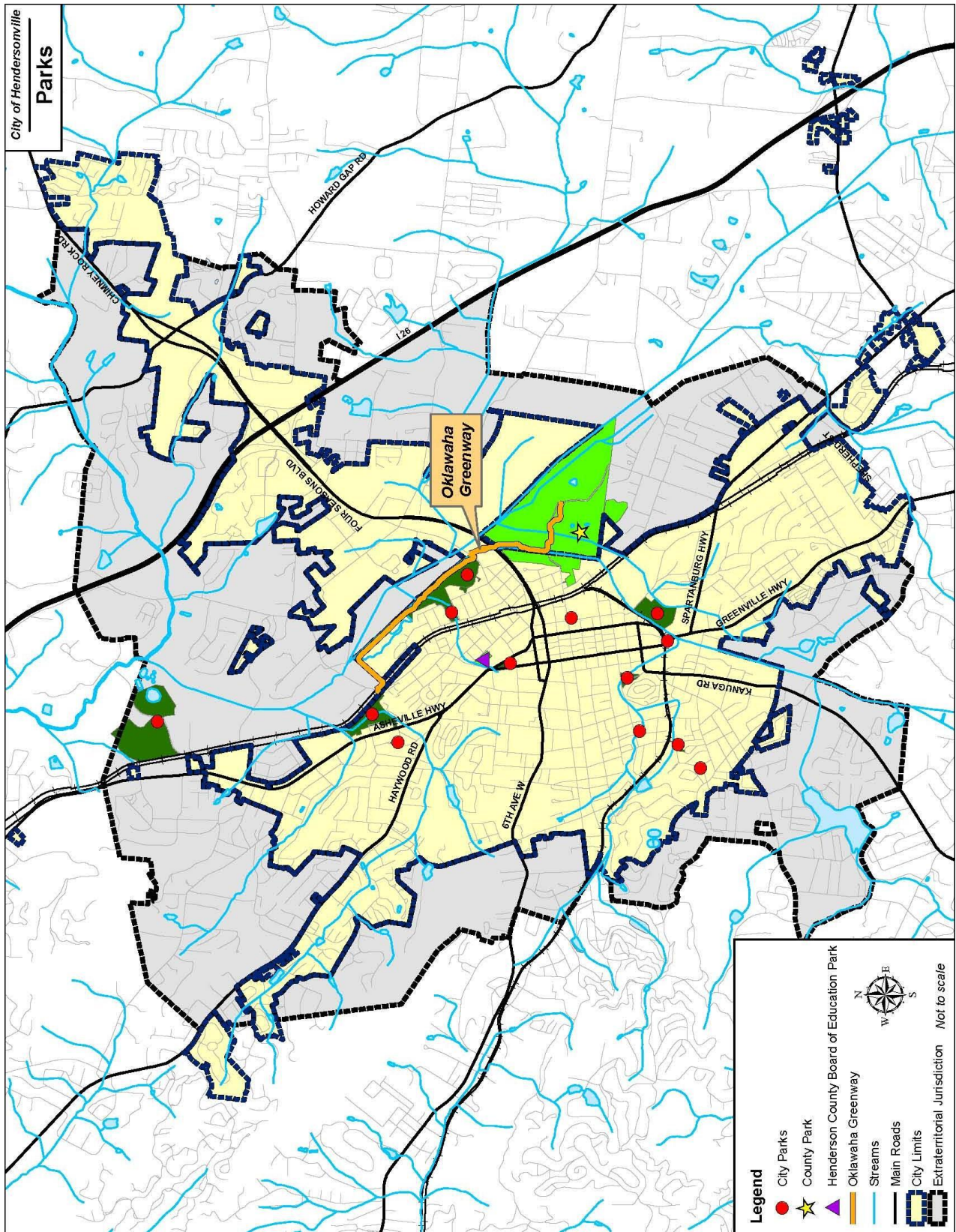
Resource Identification

This chapter includes three sections. The first section is called existing park facilities and history. This section discusses the history of City of Hendersonville parks, describes the specific amenities located at each park, shows survey results for park usage, lists the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile and includes an aerial view map of the park.

The next section discusses the park service area. A map was created to show all properties within ½ mile of each of Hendersonville's parks. This ½ mile radius represents a ten to fifteen minute walk. Park service areas of this size provide the opportunity for members of a community to walk or bicycle to a park. Having park facilities nearby also allows members of a community such as children, seniors and those with physical disabilities who do not have the ability to drive access to park facilities. The map also identifies areas in the City that do not have park facilities in close proximity to households.

The last section identifies other recreation facilities. Included are public schools, Henderson County parks and other municipal parks. Although not necessarily apparent, members of a community can access public school recreation facilities when they are not in use by students. While Henderson County parks and other municipal parks are not located within the City of Hendersonville, these parks provide additional recreation options for the citizens of Hendersonville.

Figure 1



Existing Park Facilities

Berkeley Mills Park

On June 6, 2008, Kimberly-Clark Corporation donated approximately 60 acres to the City of Hendersonville. The donation consists of two parcels across from each other on Balfour Road just to the north of the Kimberly-Clark Corporation Berkeley Mills plant. One parcel is a small hill with walking trails and a water filled quarry. The other parcel has a baseball field, walking trails, two picnic pavilions and restrooms. Originally, the parcel with the baseball field was developed as part of a mill village for Balfour Mill workers.

In 1892, William Balfour Troy purchased properties in this area and operated what was to become the largest granite quarry in Western North Carolina. Between 1894 and 1897, he furnished nearly all the granite used at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. In 1924, Capt. Ellison Adger Smyth, a pioneer in the development of the southern textile industry, built Balfour Mills at this location.¹ Balfour Mills began with 10,000 spindles and a mill village of 76 new five and seven room cottages and five existing structures that were remodeled. The following year, 25 new cottages were added.² Members of the Smyth Family continued to run Balfour Mills until 1946 when the Kimberly-Clark Corporation purchased the 189 acre plant site and facilities for three million dollars.³

The baseball field was first used for the mill baseball team named the Berkeley Spinners. The Berkeley Spinners were renamed the Berkeley Mills in 1947. This ball team played in the semi-pro Western NC Industrial League until 1962 when the league disbanded. The baseball park built for the Spinners is still active today and is used by the Babe Ruth League.

Berkeley Mills Park consists of approximately 60 acres and includes the following park amenities:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Baseball Field | ADA Accessible Restrooms |
| Concession Stand | Walking/Nature Trails |
| Picnic Pavilion (1,680 sq. ft.) | On-Site Parking |
| Picnic Pavilion (744 sq. ft.) | |

The following table shows the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

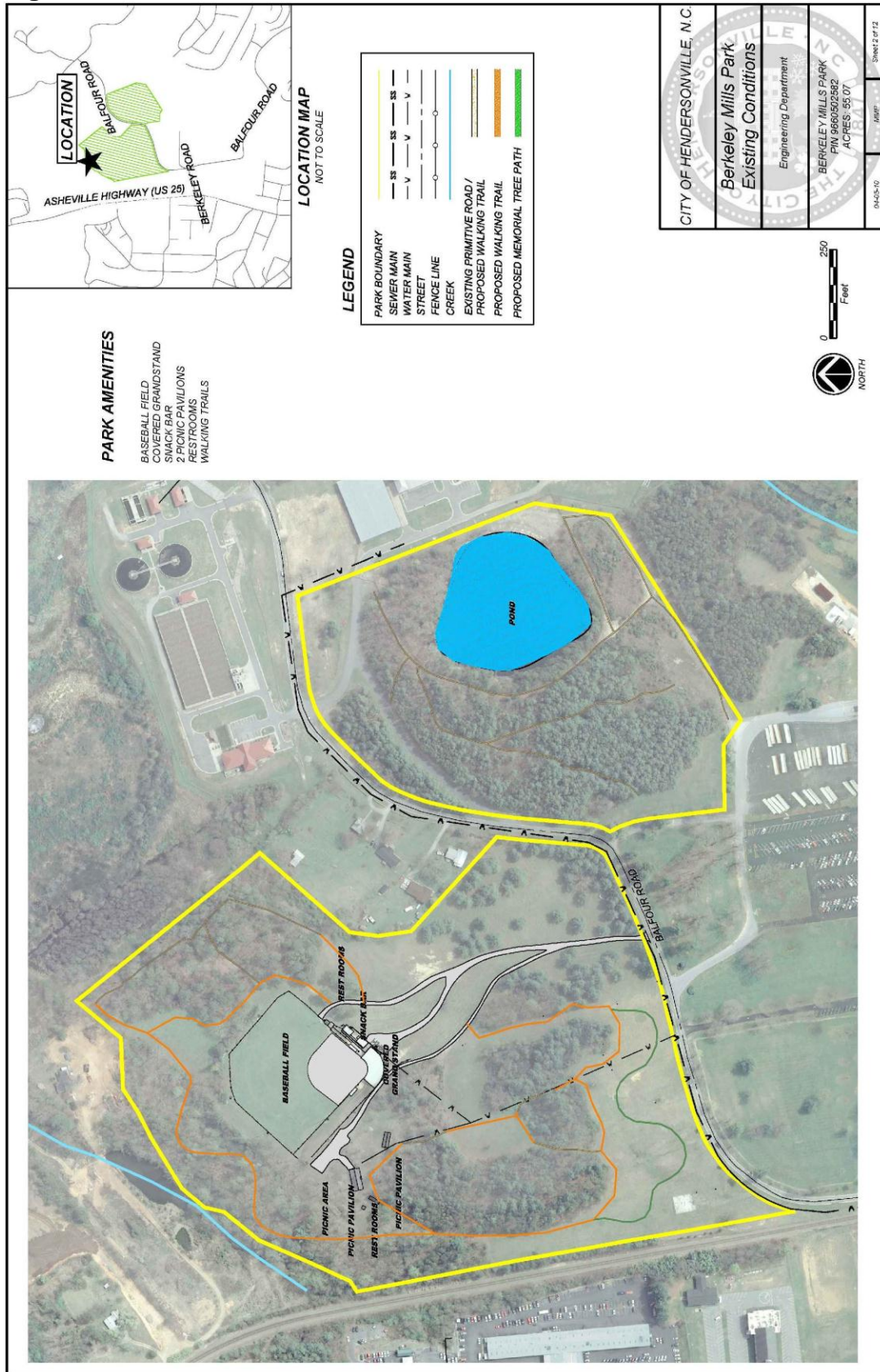
| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Berkeley Mills Park | 508 | 1,588 |

¹ Fitzsimons, Frank. From the Banks of the Oklawaha, Volume 1. Hendersonville, NC: Golden Glow Publishing Company, 1976, pages 149-151.

² Ray, Lenior, Postmarks. The Reprint Company, Publishers, 2007, page 351

³ Edney, Kermit, Kermit Edney Remember. Hendersonville, NC: WorldComm Publishing, 1979, page 170.

Figure 2



Boyd Park

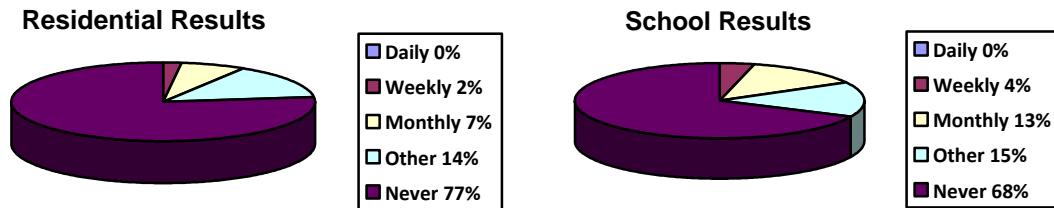
The area where Boyd Park is today was known as Plum Thicket and Plum Creek (the creek now flows under the high school). In 1886, Major James Anderson, who was a superintendent of the Spartanburg-Asheville division of the railroad, built a large home on the hill in that area. In the late 1890s, the house was sold to the Noterman family. Eventually all of this area was acquired by the City Board of Education. The house was remodeled and in the fall of 1919 became the first Hendersonville High School. With the opening of the current school in 1926, the house was torn down. Church Street was soon after extended separating the parcel from the high school property and King Street's extension later on took more of the property.

Bert Boyd, a retiree from Indiana, convinced the City School Board to give land to the City for a park. He also gave \$10,000 to beautify the park, building tennis courts, restrooms and the town's first shuffleboard court.

In 1958, the Hendersonville Youth Center (the Teen Canteen) moved from the 4th Avenue and Main Street underground area to a building at Boyd Park. The Youth Center operated as a joint venture between the City and the community as a place for teens to hang out. It had a dance area, pool tables, dining booths and a jukebox. While the land with the miniature golf and tennis courts has been city property since Mr. Boyd was involved, the northern property remained part of the public school systems holdings until 1993. At that time, the City and school system did a land swap in which the City gained land for a new fire house and the school system gained what was known as Edwards Park below Bruce Drysdale Elementary School.

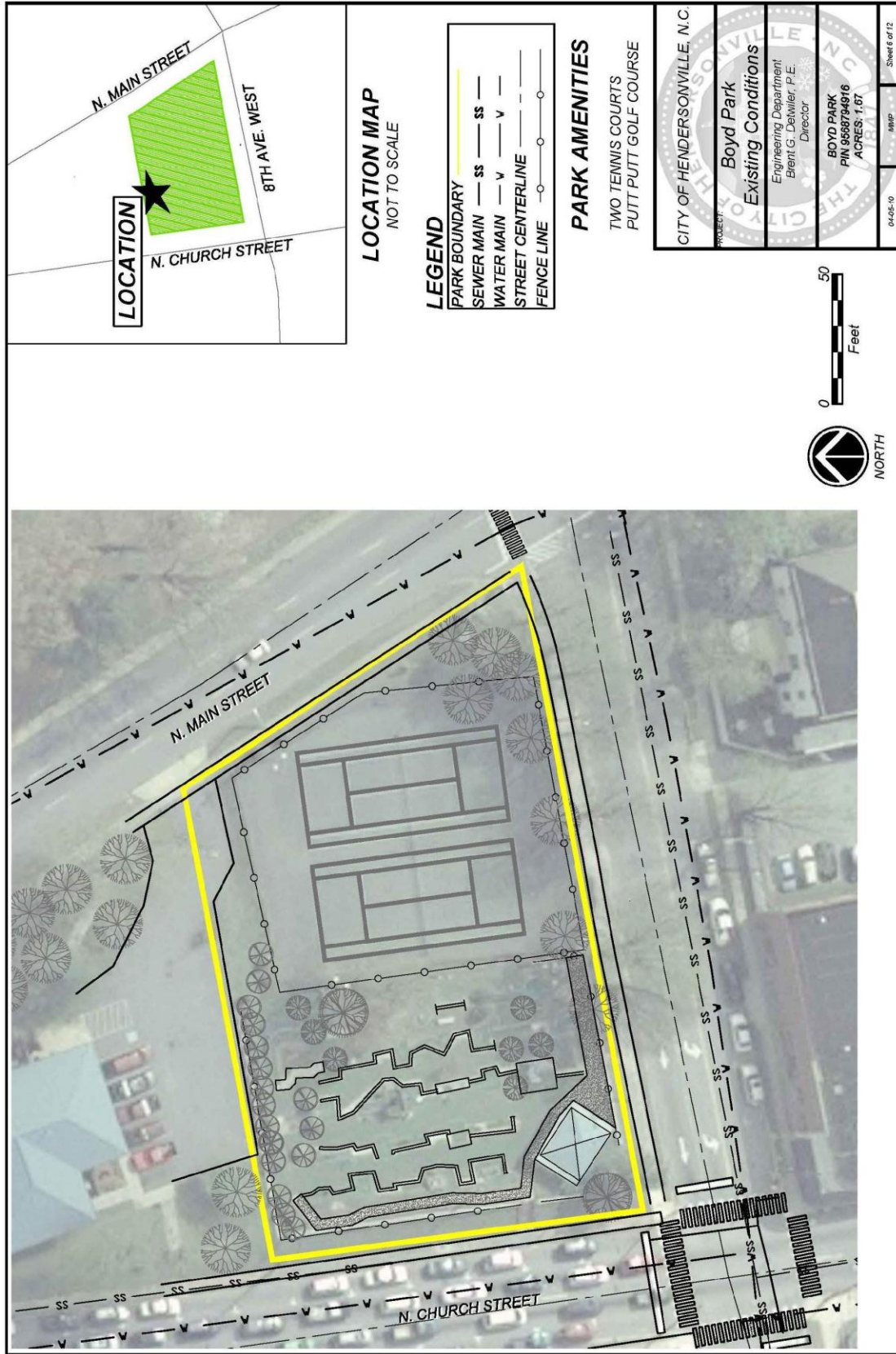
Currently, the 1.6 acre Boyd Park has a small miniature golf course and two lighted tennis courts. The Laura E. Corn miniature golf course is open seasonally and the tennis courts are available year round.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on usage of Boyd Park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.



| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Boyd Park | 792 | 2052 |

Figure 3



Bryan Park

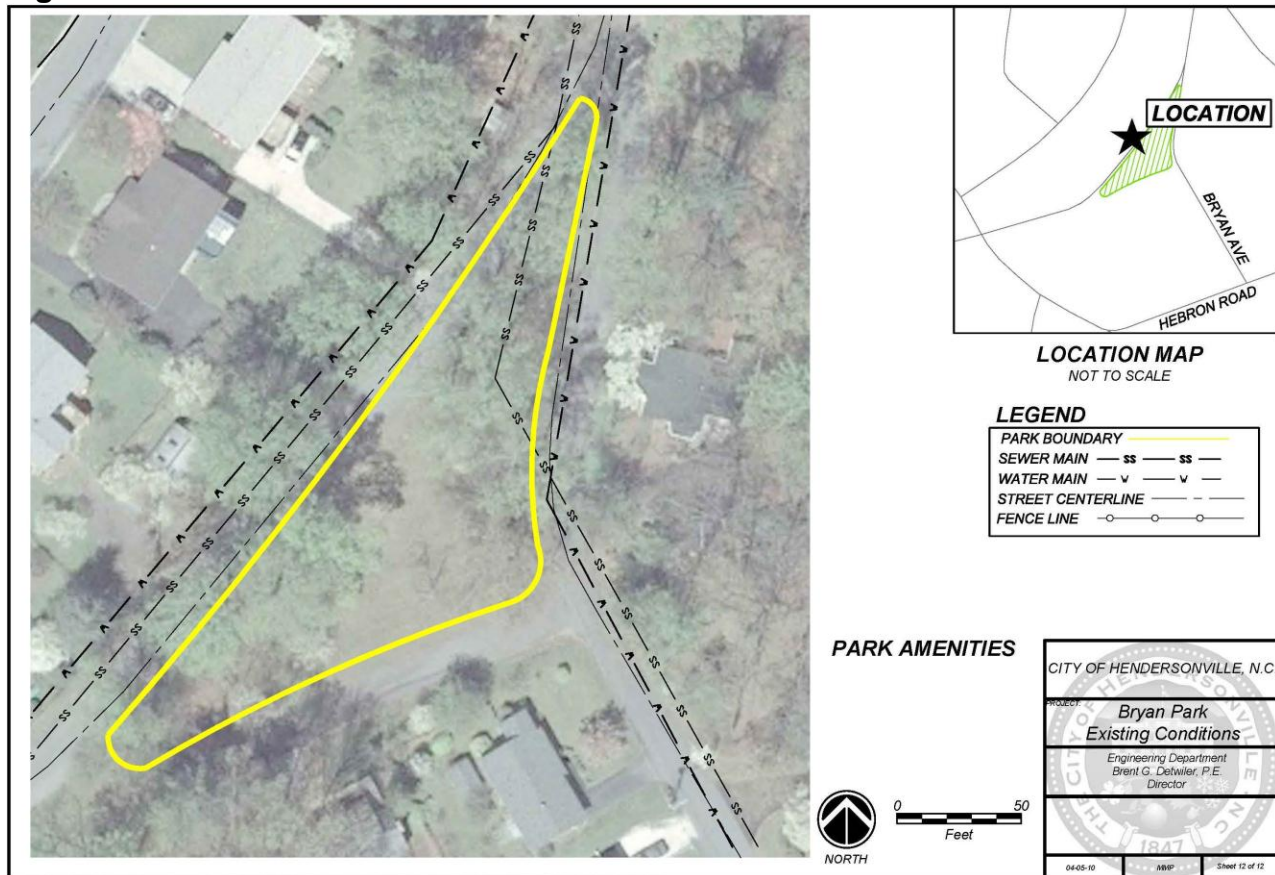
A historical record of when this park was first maintained by the City is not available. According to City Council minutes, Bryan Park, which was listed as an undeveloped property, was discussed along with other undeveloped properties during the March 9, 2000 City Council meeting. The discussion involved the possibility of turning these undeveloped properties into small neighborhood parks. No action was taken by City Council at that time.

Bryan Park is ½ acre in size and does not have any park amenities. The park consists of large trees and grass area and functions as greenspace between Lennox Park Drive and Bryan Avenue. This area was set aside as part of the design of the Lenox Park 1917 subdivision plat.

The following table shows the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bryan Park | 1,172 | 2,773 |

Figure 4



Gateway Park

In 2002, the City hired the Lawrence Group to develop a Southside Development Initiative Plan for redevelopment opportunities in the area where Spartanburg Highway, Greenville Highway, Main Street, Church Street and King Street meet. In that initiative, a focus area was identified to redevelop the Gateway Triangle site to function as a distinctive gateway to Hendersonville's Historic Main Street. This redevelopment would include upgrading existing buildings, encouraging shared parking with adjacent properties, providing greenspace with landscaping and a gateway feature such as a clock tower, and encouraging a greenway trail along the Norfolk Southern rail line.

Figure 5



In April 2008, the City purchased the Gateway Triangle property and several months later razed the building. Luther Smith and Associates was hired to develop conceptual design for the Southside Gateway Park which was presented to City Council in March 2010. City Council directed staff to move forward in implementing the design by Luther Smith & Associates.

While completing the initial grading of the property, an underground storage tank was discovered which triggered the need to follow NC State Underground Storage Tank regulations. The property had previously been used as a gas and service station. A Brownfield Phase I study was necessary to determine whether there are any additional abandoned tanks and/or contamination of soils. The Brownfield Phase I study has been

completed along with a receptor survey to determine the history of the property and past usage. The contamination levels identified in the Brownfield Phase I study were high enough to warrant a Phase II Study which includes ground water monitoring, additional soil testing and search for additional man-made objects. Once the Phase II study is completed along with any remediation, site development can continue. Below is a sketch of the park design.

Figure 6



Keith Park

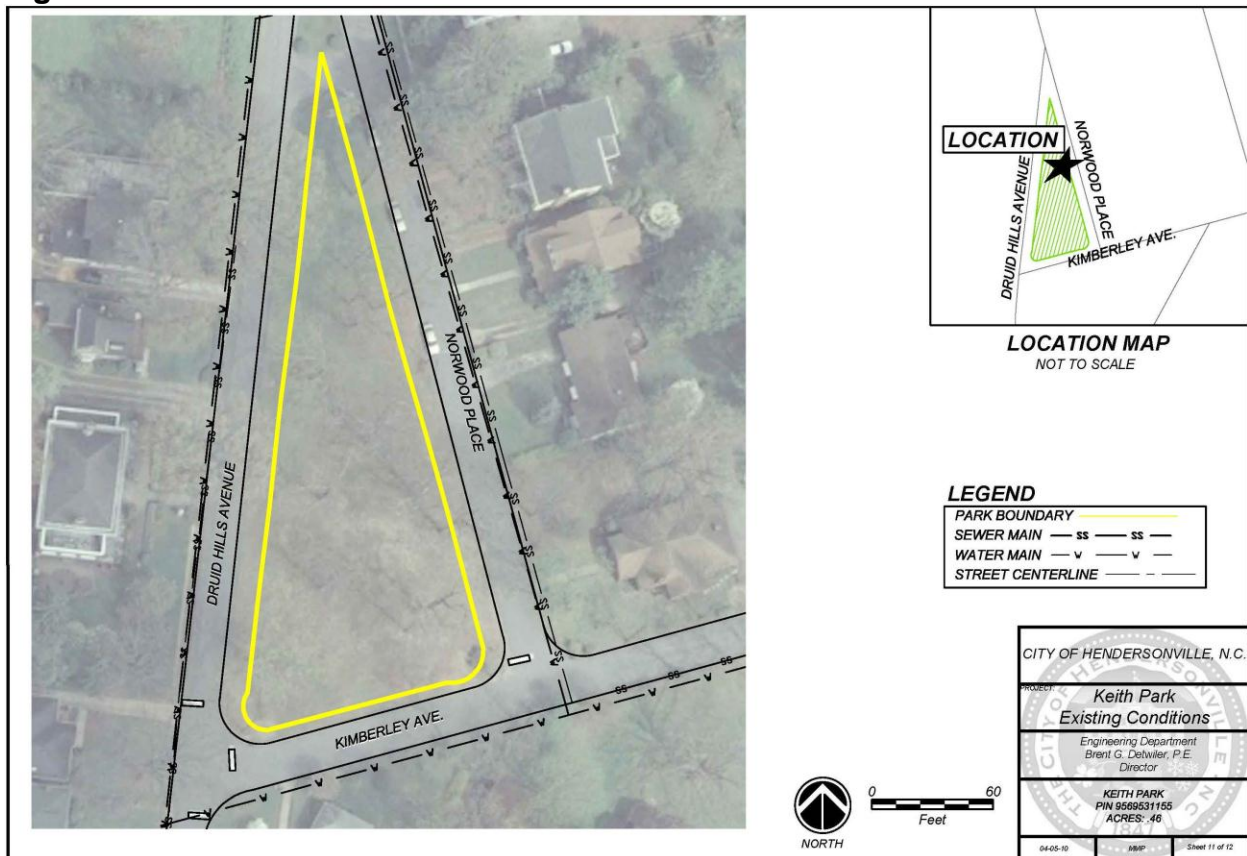
At the June 5, 1997 City Council meeting, Jody Barber suggested the unnamed park in Druid Hills be named Keith Park because of the late Donald B. Keith's involvement in downtown Hendersonville and the business community over the years. Donald B. Keith was one of the locals who traveled to Grand Junction, Colorado to view the serpentine streetscape later implemented on Main Street. He lived at 1619 Druid Hill Avenue which faces the park.

Keith Park is approximately ½ acre in size and does not have any park amenities. The park consists of large trees and grass area. Keith Park functions as greenspace between Druid Hills Avenue, Norwood Place and Kimberley Avenue. This area was set aside as part of the design of the Druid Hills 1923 subdivision plat.

The following table shows the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Keith Park | 786 | 2,613 |

Figure 7



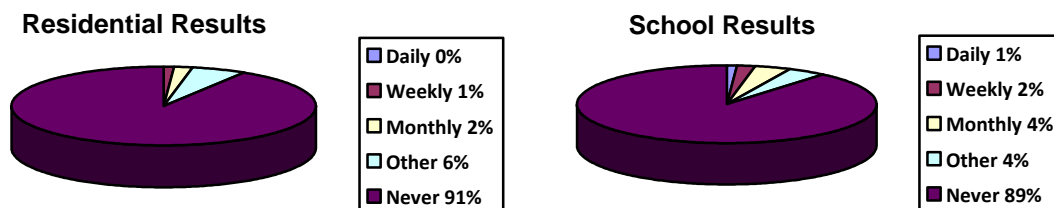
William H. King Memorial Park

The property now known as William H. King Memorial Park was historically part of the Northeast Area Urban Renewal Project platted in 1975. This project designated the property as Public/Semi-Public. In 1980, a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was used to develop the baseball field. This grant agreement required the property be used only for public outdoor recreation. Facilities may be reserved for limited periods for a specific group, such as high school baseball games, but exclusive lease of a facility is not allowed.

On October 11, 1982, this park was dedicated the William H. King Memorial Park. The late Mr. King was a native of Hendersonville and active in many civic and church organizations including: a deacon at Union Grove Baptist Church, scoutmaster, Little League coach, chair of Western Carolina Community Action Board, and Chair of the Community Chest of Berkeley Mills. He was employed by Berkeley Mills as a supervising foreman.⁴

William H. King Memorial Park, which is approximately ten acres in size, includes a baseball field, concession stand, restrooms, walking trails, on-site parking. The Hendersonville High School Baseball team has hosted home games here since before 1995. Hendersonville High School is the sole user of the baseball field and is responsible for baseball field maintenance. The park is adjacent to the Oklawaha Greenway and Sullivan Park. Mud creek runs along the eastern boundary.

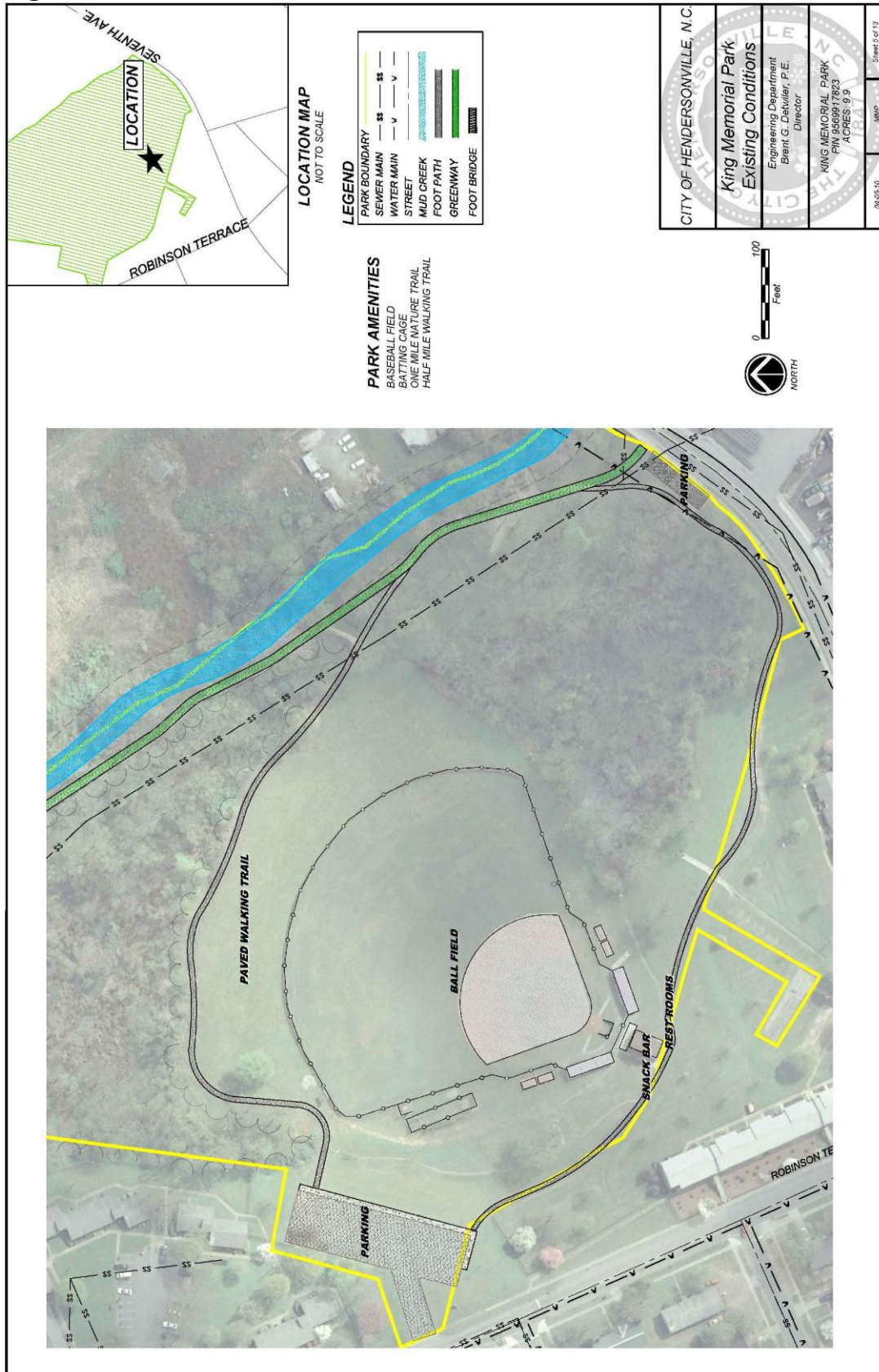
The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of William H. King Memorial Park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.



| Distance From Park | Households within 0.5 Miles | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| King/Sullivan Park | 548 | 2060 |

⁴ The Black History Research Committee of Henderson County with Gary Franklin Greene, [A Brief History of The Black Presence in Henderson County](#): Biltmore Press Asheville, NC, 1996, page 69

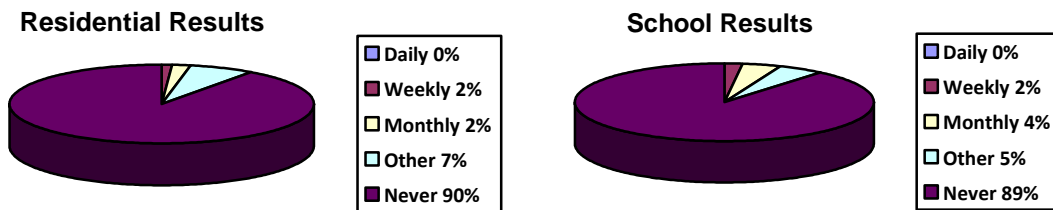
Figure 8



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park was originally named Walnut Park and was acquired in 1993. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park was dedicated in 2006 with some funding coming from the community. This park is ¼ acre in size and includes four picnic tables, a small walking path and an engraved granite memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The park is located adjacent to the Henderson County Courthouse.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.



| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dr. MLK Jr. Park | 423 | 2,064 |

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

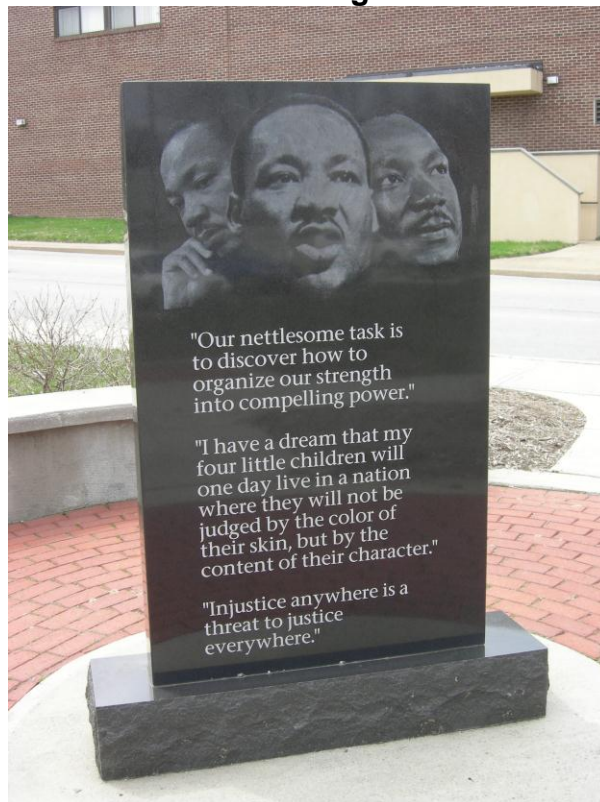
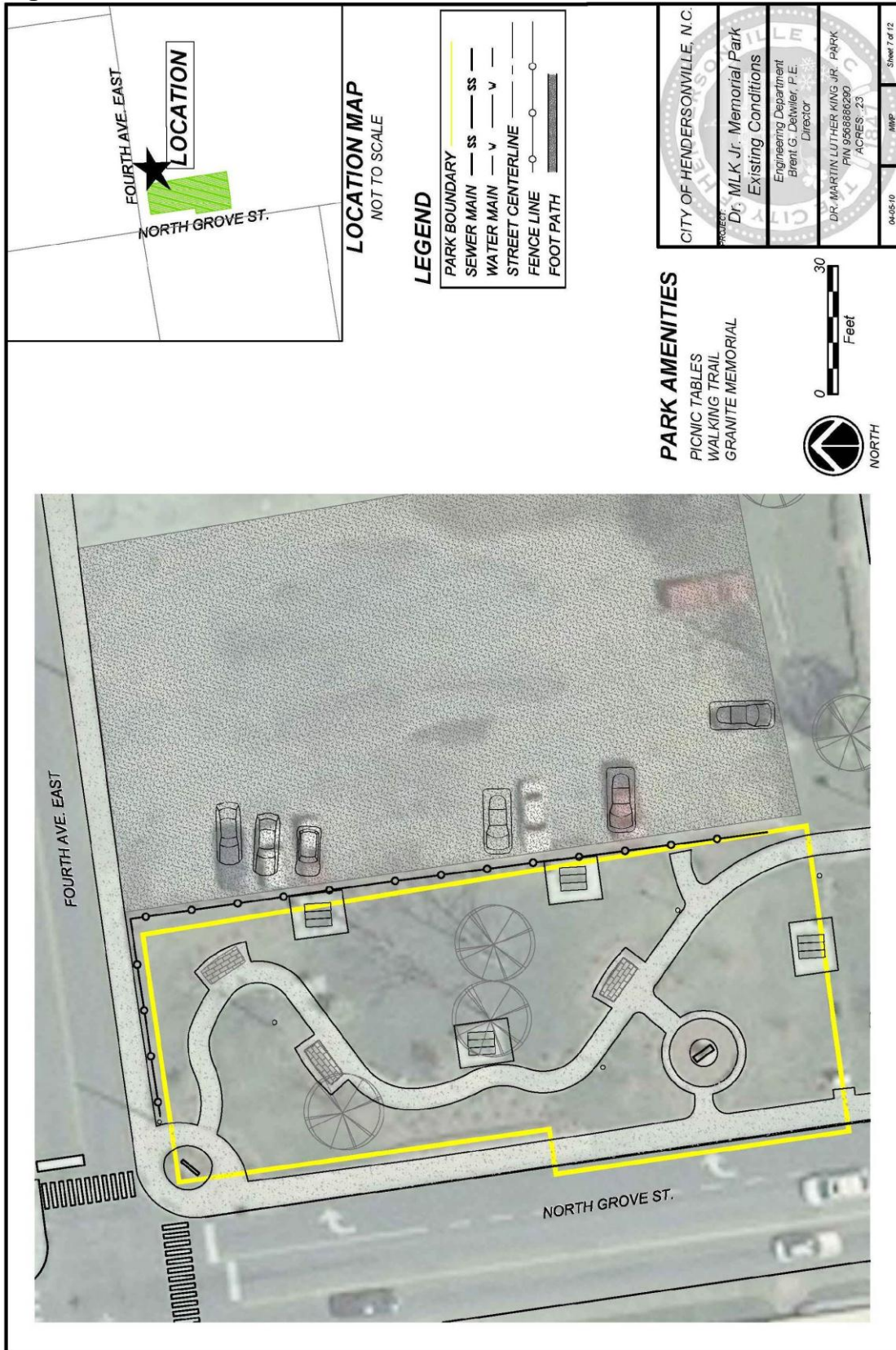


Figure 9



Lenox Park

Lenox Park was acquired by the City of Hendersonville in 1942. An additional parcel was acquired in 1959. The distinguishing feature of the park is a spring that was eventually capped by City Council in 1968-69 due to health issues resulting from people bathing in the spring.

The Cherokee name for this spring, translated into English for the pioneer settlers, was "Gift from the Great Spirit." The spring and a large boundary of land surrounding it was acquired by Dr. W. D. Whitted, the first druggist, physician and surgeon to practice medicine in Hendersonville, sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. The spring was renamed Whitted Spring after Dr. W. D. Whitted. A plat dated 1948 shows this property as Lenox Spring Park.

The name Lenox came from the famous Lennox Jewel, a clear, blue, sparkling sapphire belonging to the Countess of Lennox. This spring was known throughout the southeast for its healing mineral waters. In the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, the waters were bottled and shipped all over the southeast. Visitors to the many boarding houses in Lenox Park were drawn to the spring and its waters.⁵

Lenox Park is just under ½ acre in size and includes the capped Lennox Spring, a picnic table and outdoor grill.

The following table shows the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lenox Park | 1,258 | 2,920 |

Lenox Spring



⁵ Fitzsimons, Frank. From the Banks of the Oklawaha, Volume 1. Hendersonville, NC: Golden Glow Publishing Company, 1976, pages 157-158.

Figure 10



Oklawaha Greenway / Mud Creek Nature Trail

The Oklawaha Greenway, previously known as Mud Creek Nature Trail, connects Henderson County's Jackson Park with Patton Park. This ten foot wide asphalt path is located adjacent to Mud Creek. The wetlands in this area have been placed on the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Registry due to their uniqueness and biodiversity. The Natural Heritage Registry inventories, catalogues and supports conservation of rare and outstanding elements of the natural diversity of North Carolina. This includes state and federally listed rare plants and animals.

The Mud Creek Wetlands Registered Area consists of remnants of original extensive wetlands in the Henderson-Asheville basin. Most of the original wetlands in the Henderson-Asheville basin have been drained or altered for agricultural or development purposes. The Registered Area includes several swamps, drained wetlands and alluvial levee forest. Alluvial levee forests are forests that grow in nutrient rich sediment deposits in floodplains. A number of significant plant and animal species have been identified in the Mud Creek Wetlands Registered Area. Warty sedge, bog bluegrass, white meadowsweet, shingle oak and butternut have been identified in this area and are listed as either rare or Watch List species by the Natural Heritage Program. In addition, a limited study identified forty-seven different species of birds.

In 1988, the City received \$24,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to construct the Mud Creek Nature Trail. This one mile nature walk included a boardwalk, footbridge and identification signs along the wetland area adjacent to Mud Creek. Part of this money also went to the Green Meadows Park which is now known as Sullivan Park. The City also contributed \$24,000 towards this project. The trail was part gravel, part boardwalk and part asphalt. Construction of the trail was completed with volunteer labor from the Eckerd Camp, persons representing the disabled community and court appointees fulfilling community service sentences. In 2003, the City spent \$27,300 to rebuild the trail which had been damaged from excessive flooding from hurricanes.

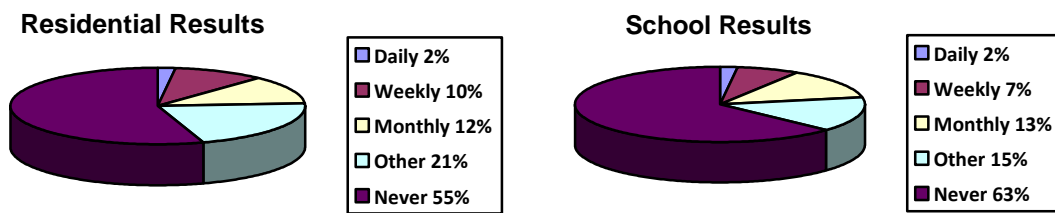
Phase I of the Oklawaha Greenway opened in 2004. The name Oklawaha was taken from the Cherokee name for Mud Creek and translates to "slowly moving muddy waters." Ochlawaha and Okliwhahah are other spellings. The greenway is a ten foot wide asphalt path with one foot shoulders and travels 0.75 miles from Jackson Park to 7th Avenue East. The greenway cost \$352,469 and was funded by the following grants: NC Park and Recreation Trust Fund, Adopt-A-Trail, NC Department of Transportation TEA21 and the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation.

Phase II of the Oklawaha Greenway was completed in November of 2009. This phase of the greenway travels 1.1 miles along Mud Creek from 7th Avenue East to Patton Park. Phase II of the Oklawaha Greenway closely follows the alignment of the original Mud Creek Nature Trail with the exception of the boardwalk area. Here the greenway runs parallel to the boardwalk. Phase II was built at a cost of \$687,472. Of that total, NC Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds contributed \$400,000 and the City of Hendersonville paid the remaining balance of \$287,472. In August of 2010, five

educational signs we added at a cost of \$500. Preliminary discussions for a Phase III of the Oklawaha Greenway have occurred. This potential future greenway extension would travel from the eastern end of the boardwalk north 1.4 miles to Berkeley Mills Park. Although City Council has expressed interest in Phase III, no specific alignment or design has been determined.

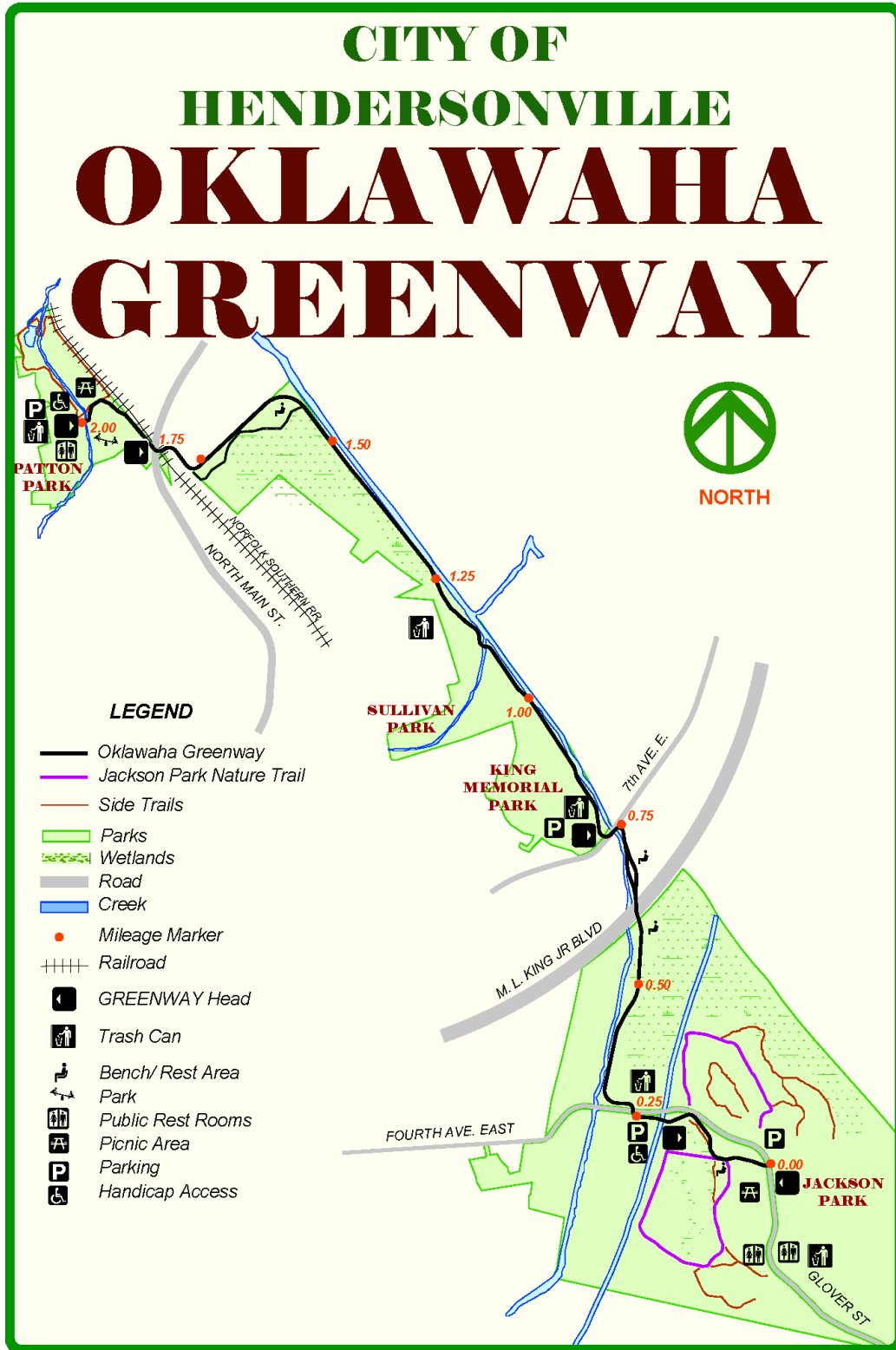
The Oklawaha Greenway includes a ten foot wide asphalt path with one foot shoulders, boardwalk, benches, interpretive signage, pet waste stations and trash receptacles. Restroom facilities are provided in Jackson Park and Patton Park.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of the Oklawaha Greenway and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.



| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oklawaha Greenway | 969 | 3,268 |

Figure 11



Patton Park

In 1968, Sadie Smathers Patton donated 20 acres of property to the city in memory of her husband, Preston F. Patton. This property became the basis of Patton Park. The property is located between US 25 North to the west, Norfolk Southern Railway to the east, Meadowbrook Creek to the north and the no longer existing Hendersonville Drive-In to the south. The Patton name was prominent in early Henderson County and the family owned land on the north side of the city. Patton Hospital, the county's first, was also on land from this family. Sadie Smathers Patton is known as a local historian and was one of the first to put local history into book form.

In the late 1970s, the City used funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to build a swimming pool complex, basketball, tennis and racquetball courts, lighted ball fields, and a parking lot. Around 1983, the city received more federal money to build two pavilions with tables, grills and water fountains, three picnic mini shelters, three foot bridges, playground equipment and necessary landscaping.

The small office building in the park was moved here for the City Parks and Recreation Department after the Whitmire Building in Boyd Park was demolished. This department operated day camps, trips, sports teams and leagues until the department was disbanded in 1995. Today, such activities and scheduling is handled through the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department.

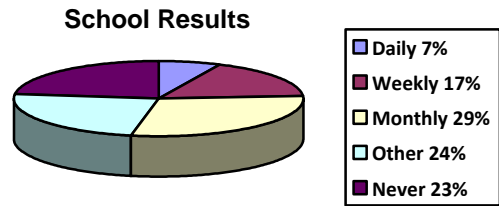
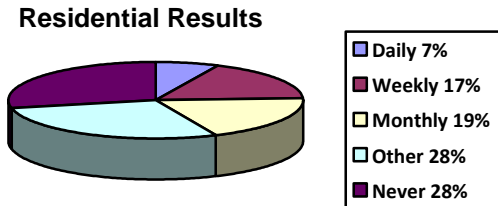
The two most recent additions to Patton Park include a skate park and the extension of the Oklawaha Greenway to the park. The skate park was built at a cost of \$407,161 and dedicated on May 5, 2009. The Oklawaha Greenway extension known as Phase II was built at a cost of \$687,472 and dedicated on November 14, 2009. Funding for the skate park was achieved through grants, fund raising by the Henderson County Skate Alliance and City of Hendersonville contributions. Funding of Phase II of the Oklawaha was achieved through NC Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds and City of Hendersonville contributions.

Brittain Creek bisects the property and eventually flows into Mud Creek. Patton Park consists of approximately 18 acres and includes the following park amenities:

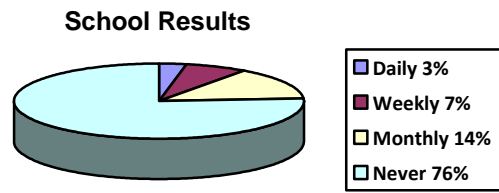
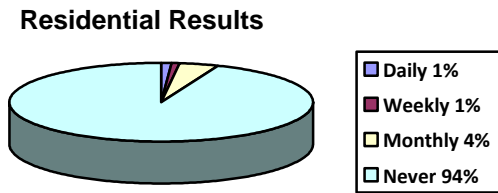
| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Basketball Courts (2) | Picnic Pavilion (2,193 sq. ft.) |
| Baseball Field | Playground for Tots |
| Brittain Creek | Racquetball Courts |
| Concession Stand (Seasonal) | Skate Park |
| Gazebos (2) | Swimming Pool |
| Multi-Use Fields (2) | Tennis Courts (2) |
| Oklawaha Greenway | ADA Accessible Restrooms |
| Pedestrian Bridges (3) | Walking Trails |
| Picnic Pavilion (1,091 sq. ft.) | On-Site Parking |

The following graphs and tables show the survey results for usage of Patton Park and the skate park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

Patton Park Usage

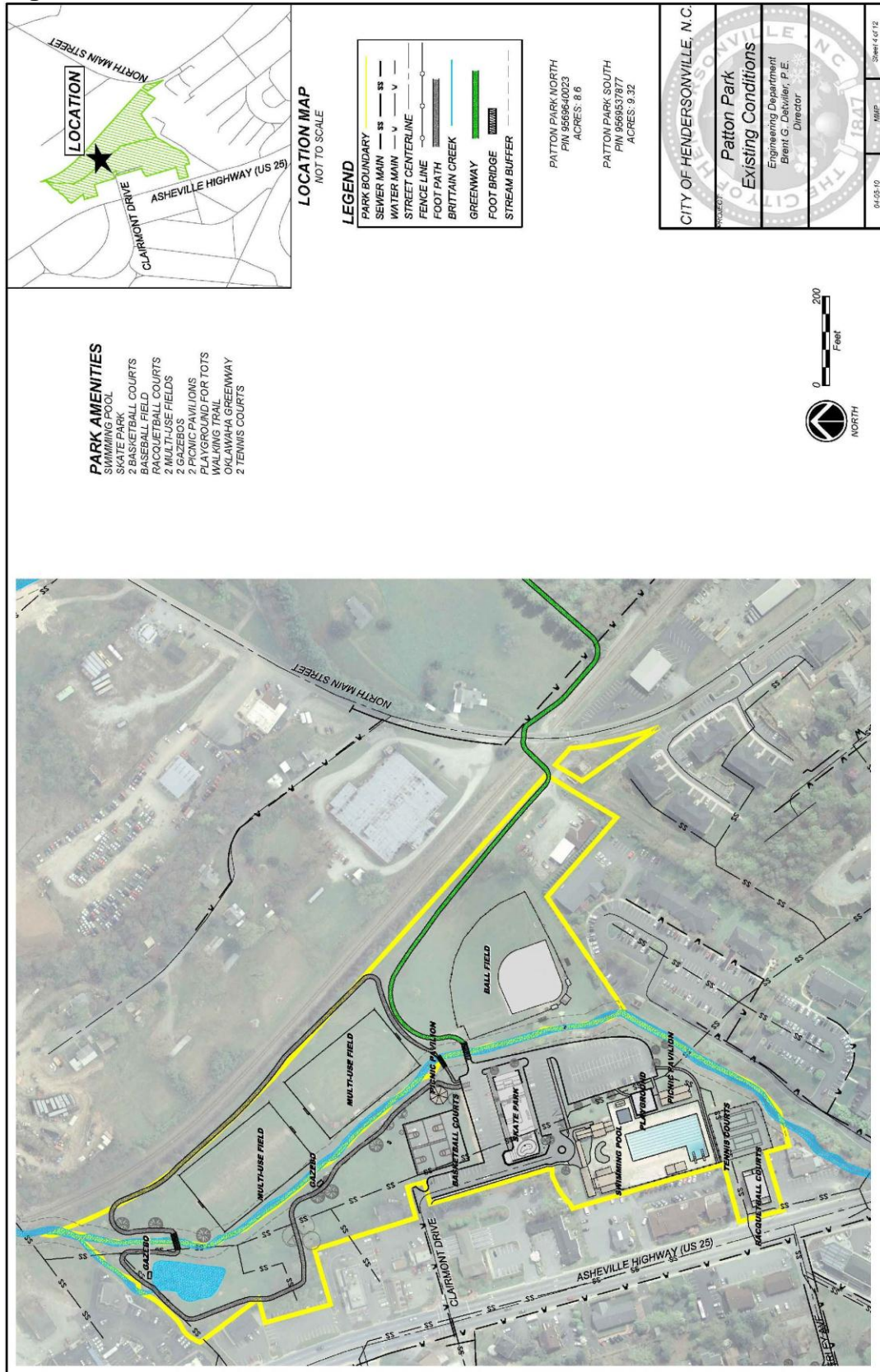


Skate Park Usage



| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Patton Park | 955 | 2,861 |

Figure 12

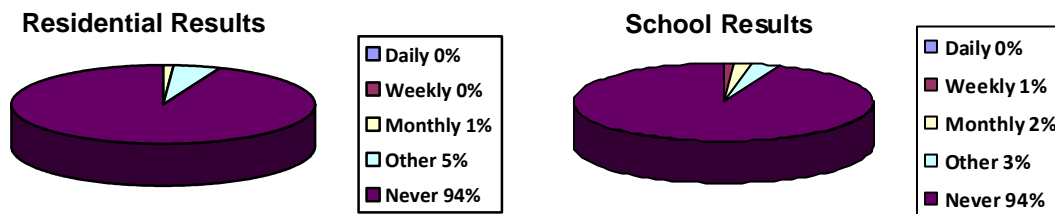


Rotary Park

The land for Rotary Park was acquired in 1998 and was known as Allen Street Park. In 1999, the City entered into an agreement for the sponsorship of the public park with the Hendersonville Four Seasons Rotary Club. A Master Plan for the park was developed by Luther Smith & Associates and Hendersonville Four Seasons Rotary Club pays \$1,500 per year for park maintenance.

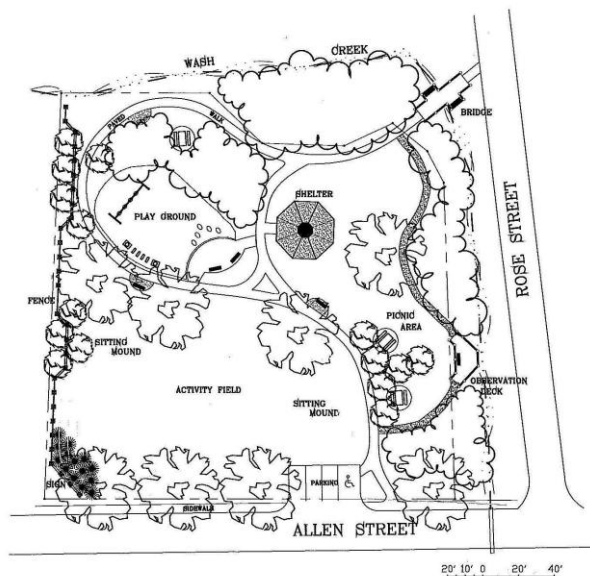
Rotary Park is just over one acre in size and park amenities include benches, picnic tables, picnic pavilion, playground, and a walking trail with creek overlooks. Wash Creek runs along the south and west side of the property.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of Rotary Park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.



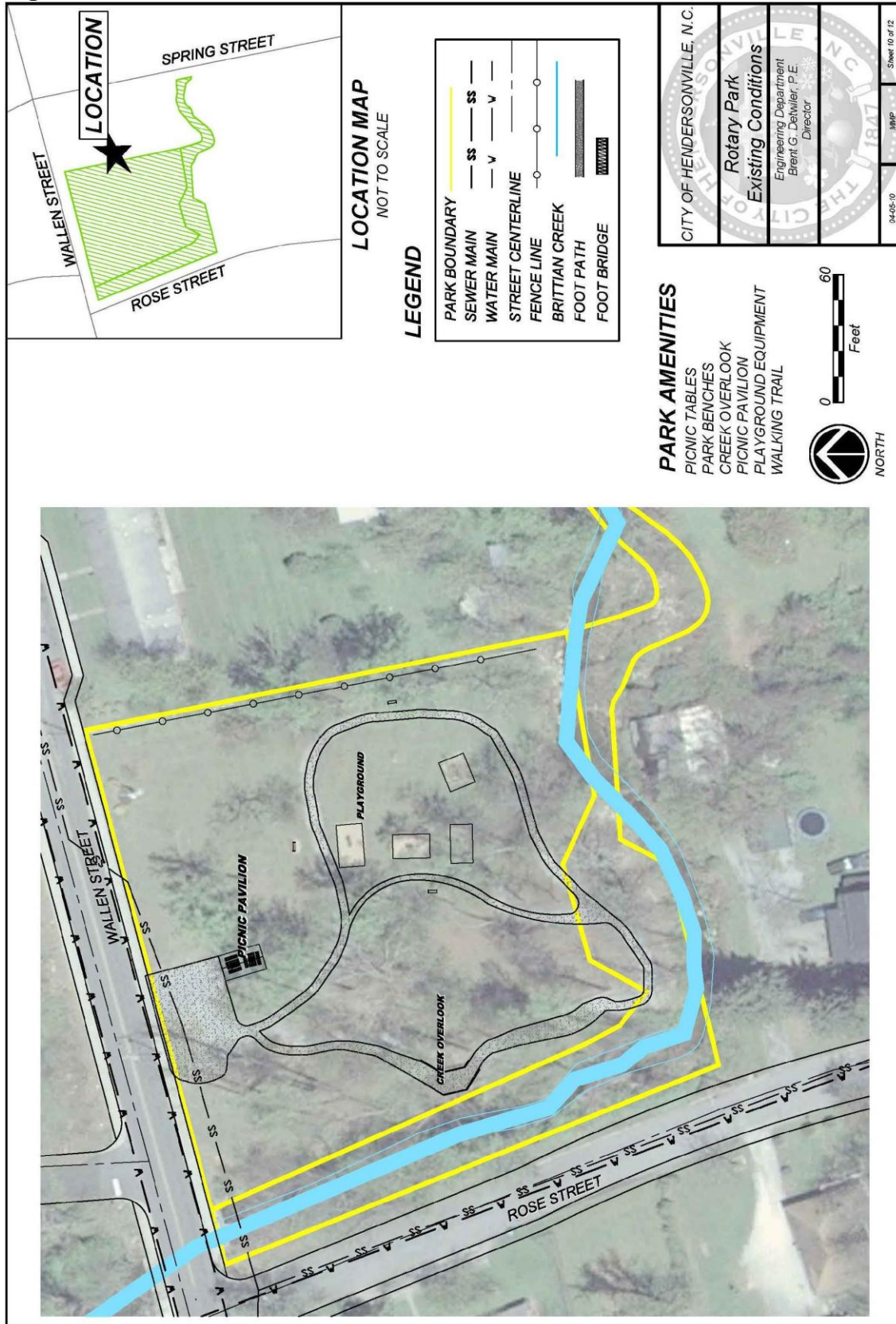
| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rotary Park | 1,065 | 2,897 |

Original Design of Rotary Park



FOUR SEASONS ROTARY PARK
CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE

Figure 13



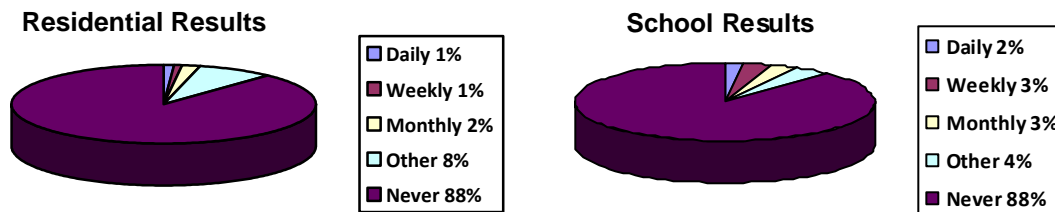
J. H. Sullivan Park

Starting in the late 1960s, the City began working with Community Development Block Grant monies from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to redevelop the area known at that time as Brooklyn. The name was changed to Green Meadows in 1974 as part of this redevelopment process. Redevelopment included tearing down older houses, building public housing, realigning and renaming the streets and adding a park and community center.

On December 4, 1997, City Council changed the name of Green Meadows Park to J. H. Sullivan Park. This change came from a neighborhood petition wanting to honor Reverend James J. Sullivan, a Hendersonville native and active community leader. He was the first African American crossing-guard officer and strong leader to several churches for over 30 years. Reverend Sullivan was a scoutmaster, helped build the playground in Green Meadows Park, and, along with W. H. King, worked with the youth in the old Brooklyn community.⁶

J. H. Sullivan Park is approximately 18 acres in size and park amenities include a covered basketball area with two courts, playground, picnic pavilion, and concrete skating area. Restrooms exist on the property but remain closed due to maintenance issues. An un-named tributary bisects the property and empties into Mud Creek. The Oklawaha Greenway is located along the eastern edge of the property.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of Sullivan Park and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

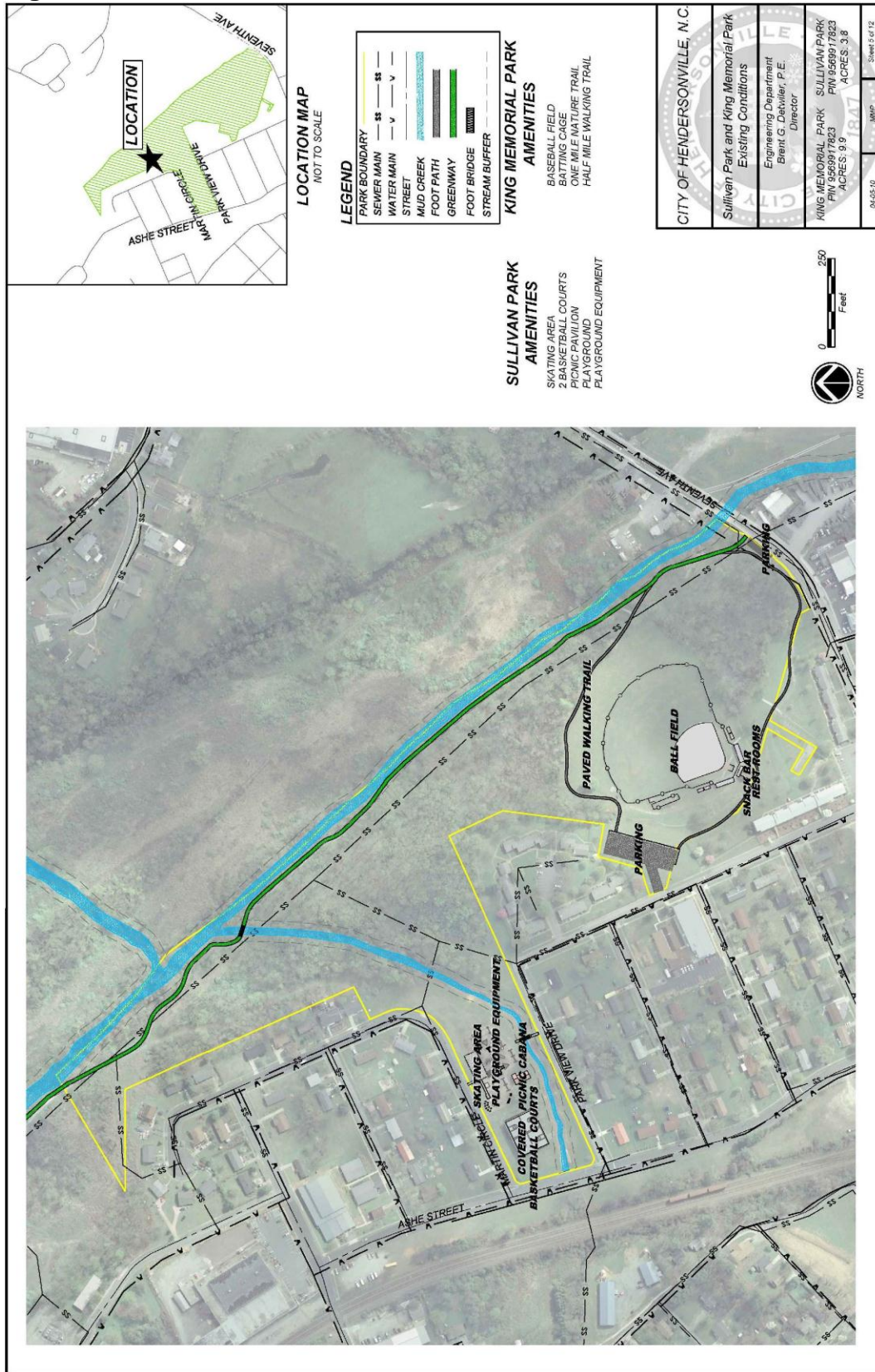


| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| King/Sullivan Park | 548 | 2,060 |

The following figure shows Sullivan Park and King Memorial Park along with a portion of the Oklawaha Greenway.

⁶ City of Hendersonville City Council Minutes, 12.4.1997

Figure 14



Toms Park

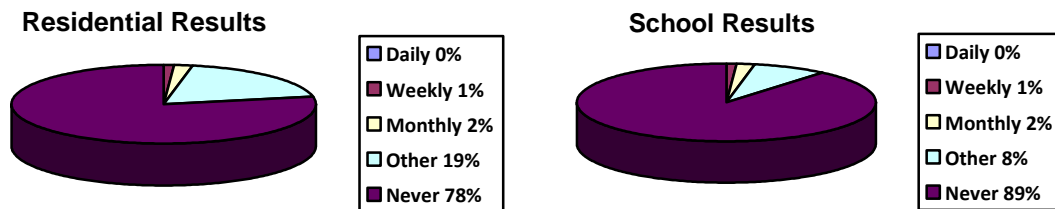
The Toms Park property was acquired in 1919. Originally, the property had a pond with rare water lilies brought in by Captain M.C. Toms, whose home atop Toms Hill overlooked the area. Wash Creek runs through the property. Captain Toms rose to the rank of Captain in the Confederate Army and moved here from Buncombe County in 1867. He became very successful in business and as a lawyer, City Commissioner and State Senator.⁷

At some point after 1957, the pond was filled in and a small train for children ran on tracks in a circle. The train was eliminated in 1965 and shuffleboard courts were built. The shed was demolished when the activity center was built.⁸

The Hendersonville Shuffleboard Club pays a lease for the portion of the building they occupy and does maintenance on the courts. In 1970 they hosted the National Shuffleboard Tournament and in 1997 hosted the International Shuffleboard Tournament with teams from Brazil, Canada and Japan attending.

The 9,100 square foot Toms Park Activity Center was built in 1990. It was renamed the Whitmire Activity Center in honor of former Mayor Boyce Whitmire in 1999. In addition to the Whitmire Activity Center, the two and ½ acre property includes 27 shuffle board courts, a pedestrian bridge across Wash Creek and picnic tables.

The following graphs and table show the survey results on the usage of the Whitmire Activity Center and the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

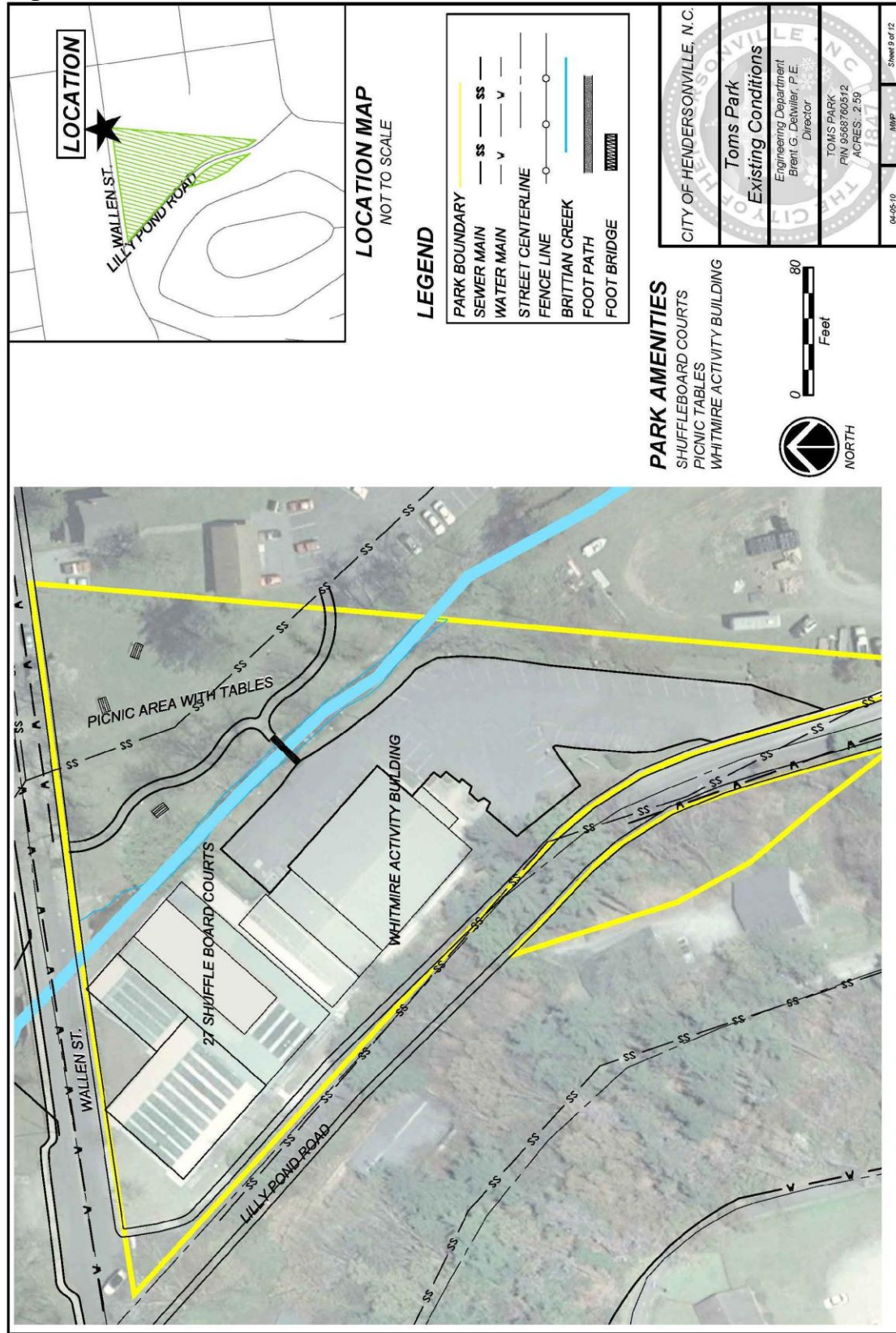


| Distance From Park | Households within ½ Mile | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Toms Park | 822 | 2,955 |

⁷ Fitzsimons, Frank. *From the Banks of the Oklawaha, Volume 2*. Hendersonville, NC: Golden Glow Publishing Company, 1976, pages 26-28.

⁸ John Rheinhardt, City Employee

Figure 15



Edwards Park – Henderson County Board of Education

Edwards Park is owned and operated by the Henderson County Board of Education and consists of approximately two and ½ acres. Located within Hendersonville’s city limits on North Main Street, park facilities include a meeting hall, three club houses, picnic tables and park benches.

Jackson Park – Henderson County

Jackson Park was established in 1974 and consists of 212 acres. Jackson Park includes the following park amenities:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Baseball Fields (9) | Sand Volleyball |
| BMX Track | Soccer Fields |
| Oklawaha Greenway | Tennis Courts (8) |
| Jackson Park Nature Trail | Walking Trails |
| Picnic Shelters (4) | Wildlife Viewing |
| Playground | |

Although Jackson Park is a Henderson County owned and operated park, the park bears mention due to the park’s central location in Hendersonville and proximity to Main Street. Because of this fact, Jackson Park functions as a community park for Hendersonville. Jackson Park’s two entrances are located on Fourth Avenue and on Glover Street. The Fourth Avenue entrance is located less than ½ mile from Hendersonville’s Historic Main Street putting Jackson Park within a 10 minute walk from Main Street. Through infrastructure improvements and redevelopment, a pedestrian link from Main Street to Jackson Park along 4th Avenue will be provided.

Henderson County is currently considering \$600,000 in improvements to Jackson Park to include road improvements, traffic calming, sidewalks and trail extensions.

Other Recreational Facilities

Public School Recreation Facilities - Within 2 Miles of City Limits

Apple Valley Middle School

43 Fruitland Road
Gym
Multi-Use Field
Softball

Balfour Education Center

2529 Asheville Hwy
Gym
Multi-Use Field

Blue Ridge Community College

Picnic Shelter
Baseball Field
Multi-Use Field

Bruce Drysdale Elementary School

834 N. Main Street
Gym
Playground

East Henderson High School

110 Upward Road
Gym
Football/Soccer/Track Stadium
Baseball Field
Multi-Use Field

Henderson County Adm. Building

414 4th Avenue West
Multi-Use Field

Hendersonville Elementary School

1039 Randall Street
Gym
Playground
Softball

Hendersonville Middle School

825 N. Whitted Street
Basketball Courts (2)

Hendersonville Middle School cont.

Gym
Soccer Field

Hendersonville High School

311 8th Avenue West
Gym
Football/Soccer/Track Stadium

Mountain Community School

613 Glover Street
No Facilities

North Henderson High School

35 Fruitland Road
Gym
Football/Soccer/Track Stadium
Multi-Use Field
Tennis Courts (6)
Baseball
Walking trail

Rugby Middle School

2555 Haywood Road
Gym
Multi-Use Field
Walking trail

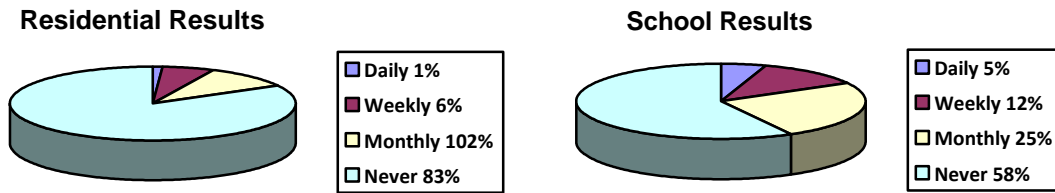
Upward Elementary School

950 Upward Road
Gym
Playground
Multi-Use Field

West Henderson High School

3600 Haywood Road
Gym
Football/Soccer/Track Stadium
Multi-Use Field
Tennis Courts (6)
Baseball

The following graphs show the survey results on how often someone in the household uses public school facilities for non-school related public recreation. Note: Public school facilities are not available to the general public during school related functions.



Henderson County Parks

Dana Community Park

Located between Orchard Road and Upward Road, Dana Community Park offers a community building, playing field, picnic shelter, grill and swings. Dana Community Park is being considered for redesign.

East Flat Rock Park

Located at Spartanburg Highway (US 176) and East Blue Ridge Road, East Flat Rock Park offers a large pavilion, gazebo, grills, restrooms, playground, swings, walking trail, playing field, and basketball court. An ADA playground is proposed for this park.

Etowah Lions Club Park

Located on Etowah School Road, Etowah Park's 18 acres includes a shelter, picnic tables, playground, a walking trail, tennis courts, baseball fields, soccer field and shuffleboard court. A disc golf course is planned for the future.

Edneyville Community Center

Located on Ida Rogers Drive, the Edneyville Community Center is a 5,335 square foot center with a meeting room, kitchen and restrooms. Future use of the 15 acres includes multi-purpose fields, a walking trail and playground equipment. Future improvements include a soccer field.

Edneyville Park

Located at 149 Firehouse Road, Edneyville Park consists of two tennis courts and a basketball court.

Jackson Park

Jackson Park consists of 212 acres and is located along Glover Street between Harris Street and Powell Street. Due to the proximity of Jackson Park to downtown Hendersonville, this park is discussed earlier in this chapter under Existing Park Facilities.

Westfeldt River Park

Located on Fanning Bridge Road adjacent to the French Broad River, Westfeldt Park offers a boat launch and picnic tables. The Town of Fletcher has a contract with Henderson County to design and operate an off-leash dog park at this location.

Other Municipal Parks in Henderson County

Fletcher

Fletcher Community Park

Located approximately five miles from Hendersonville's city limits, Fletcher Community Park provides five baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, concession/restroom building, shelter, playground, disc golf, arboretum and walking trails. The park property and greenway trail comprise 68 acres.

Kate's Park

Located approximately six miles from Hendersonville's city limits, Kate's Park provides a playground, tot lot, shelter and walking trail. The park is adjacent to the Fletcher Public Library.

Fletcher Soccer Park

Henderson County Soccer Association has obtained 48 acres of land in Fletcher to construct a soccer complex. The 2009 overall plan has thirteen soccer fields of various sizes for various ages. Parking and restroom facilities are also planned. This facility will be located five miles from Hendersonville's city limits.

Flat Rock, NC

Flat Rock Park

This wooded area, located one mile from Hendersonville's city limits, is one and ½ acres in size and has a walking trail and benches.

Laurel Park

Little Laurel Green Park

Located adjacent to Hendersonville's city limits on Fifth Avenue, this park covers four acres and contains a playground, gazebo, walking trail, benches and a creek and pond with ducks.

Jump Off Rock

Located two and ½ miles from Hendersonville's city limits, this scenic overlook provides a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge and Pisgah mountain ranges. There are benches and three hiking trails varying in length and difficulty.

Mills River

Mills River Park

Located approximately four miles from Hendersonville's city limits, this master planned park will be developed on 42 acres adjacent to the Mills River. The park will include ball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, multiuse trails, a dog park, shelters, fishing piers and a boat launch for non-motorized boats.

Chapter 4

Needs Assessment

Public Involvement and Survey

The City of Hendersonville held two public forums to gather input on existing park facilities and potential locations and types of future parks. The forums were held the morning of Saturday, June 5th and the evening of Tuesday, June 8th. Having a weekend forum and an evening forum gave greater options for attendees. Notice of the two forums was accomplished through a press release and numerous posters placed around the City. The City did receive media coverage of the meetings. Additionally, a 32 question survey was developed to gather information about park usage and desires for forum attendees to complete.

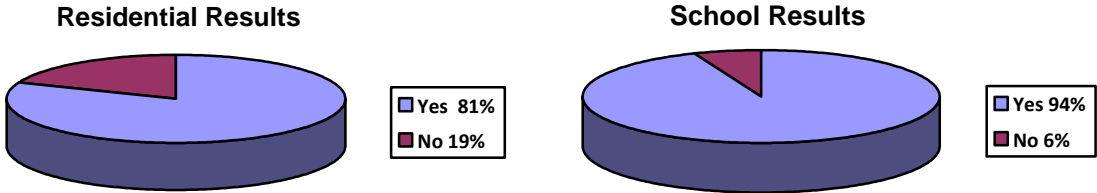
As another means to gather public input, the survey was mailed to residential properties located within the City of Hendersonville. Initially, 4,896 surveys were mailed to residential properties in June of 2010. An 11% response rate was achieved resulting 564 completed surveys. The results of these surveys indicated that sixty percent were from households with populations aged 50 and above. Due to this fact, the surveys were likely lacking in information from households with school aged children.

In order to get responses from households with school aged children, a total of 1,940 surveys were distributed to Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Hendersonville Elementary, Hendersonville Middle, and Hendersonville High schools in August 2010. Six hundred and thirty seven surveys were returned. Although this represents a 33% return rate based on the number of surveys distributed, more than one survey may have been received in each individual household depending on the number of school aged children in that household. The survey specifically instructed that only one survey per household should be completed. Therefore the survey response rate is likely quite a bit higher.

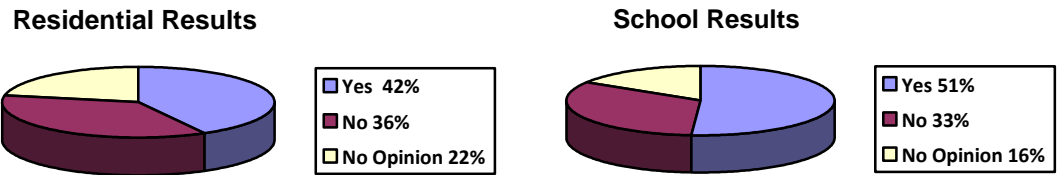
Following are the majority of the results of individual questions. Other results from the survey may be found in Chapter 3 under the individual parks and Chapter 6 under recommendations. Review of the survey results indicates many correlations between responses from the residential mailings and responses from school attendees. Seven of the top ten responses to the question regarding reasons for using parks matched. And, six of the top ten choices for additional recreation facilities or amenities matched. Most commonly selected recreation facilities or amenities from a set list include bike/walk paths, indoor pool, nature trails, off leash dog park, playgrounds and splash park. The surveys also indicated a very strong desire for a downtown park/outdoor event space.

Survey Questions and Results

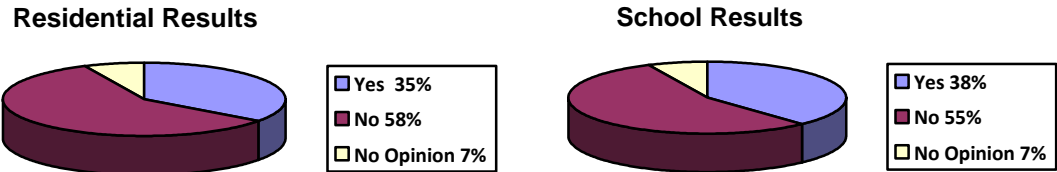
❖ Has anyone in your household visited any of Hendersonville’s parks during the past year?



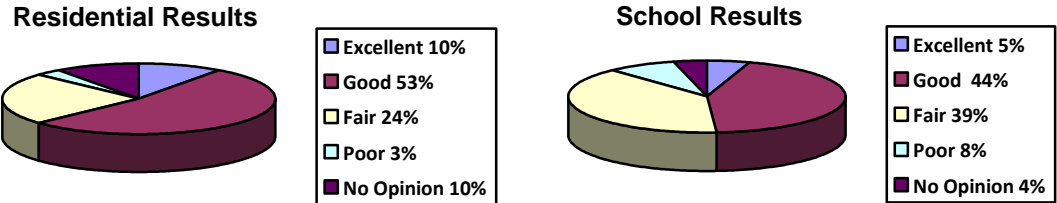
❖ Are there a sufficient number and variety of park and recreation facilities located in Hendersonville?



❖ Are there sufficient parks and greenspace areas within walking distance of your residence?

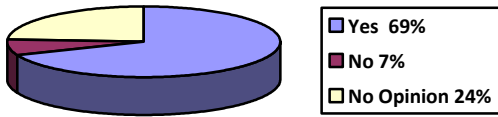


❖ How do you rate the quality of recreation facilities located in Hendersonville?

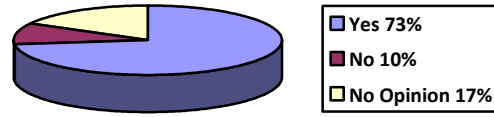


- ❖ Is there sufficient parking at city parks. If answering no, please list the specific parks that need additional parking.

Residential Results

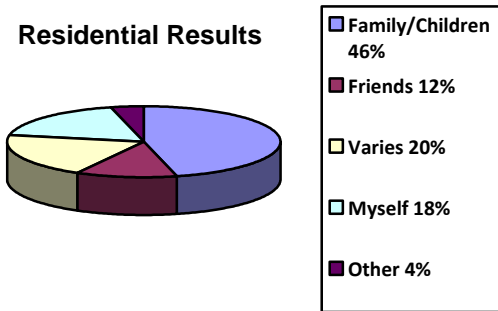


School Results

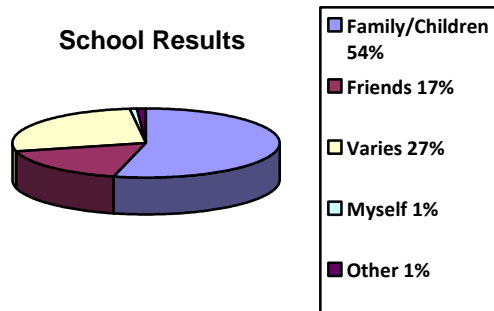


- ❖ Please select the people that you most often use the park with.

Residential Results

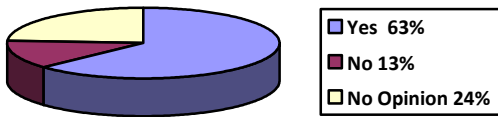


School Results

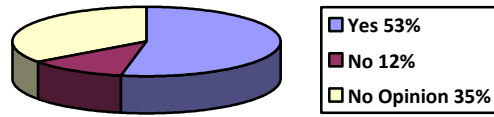


- ❖ Would you support the conversion of the Norfolk Southern Ecusta rail line that travels from Hendersonville to Brevard to a multi-purpose trail?

Residential Results

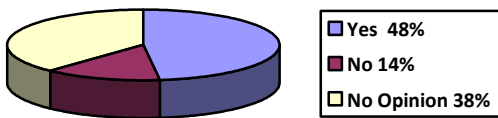


School Results

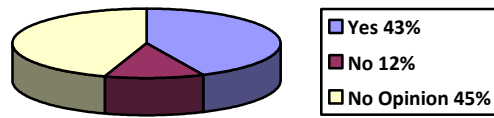


- ❖ Are you in favor of expanding the Oklawaha Greenway?

Residential Results

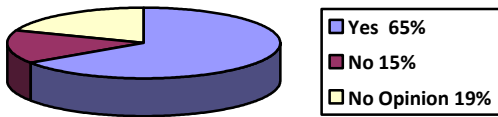


School Results

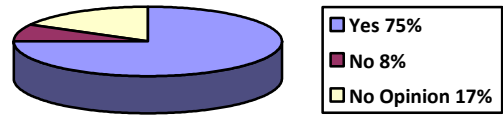


❖ Are you in favor of the development of a downtown park/outdoor event space?

Residential Results

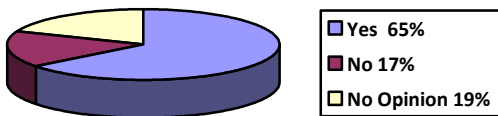


School Results

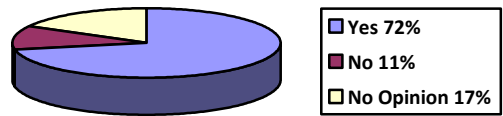


❖ Do you support the city acquiring additional land for parks?

Residential Results

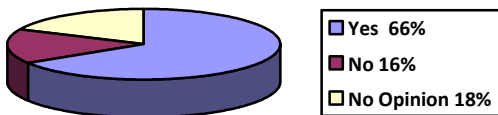


School Results



❖ Do you support the city acquiring additional land for greenspace/openspace?

Residential Results

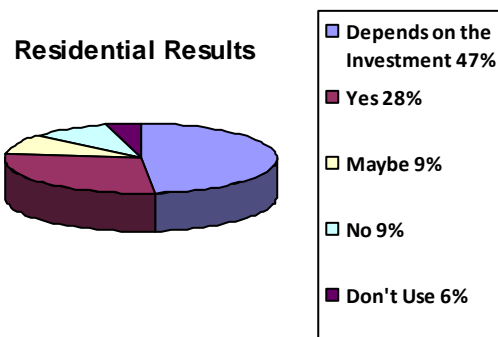


School Results

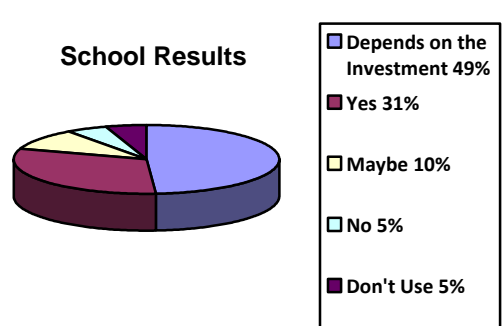


❖ Would you like Hendersonville to invest more money in the parks?

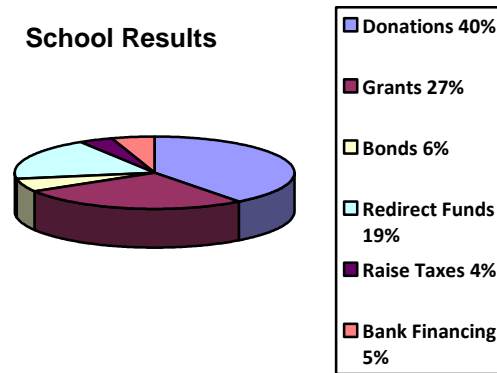
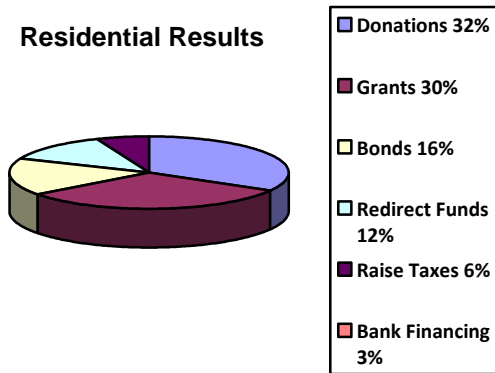
Residential Results



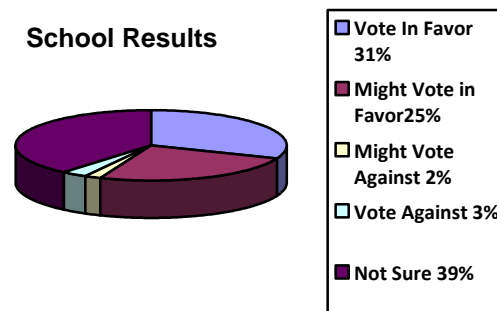
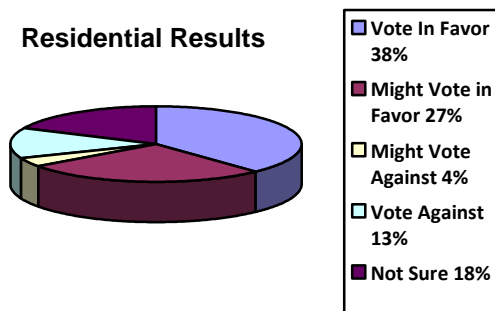
School Results



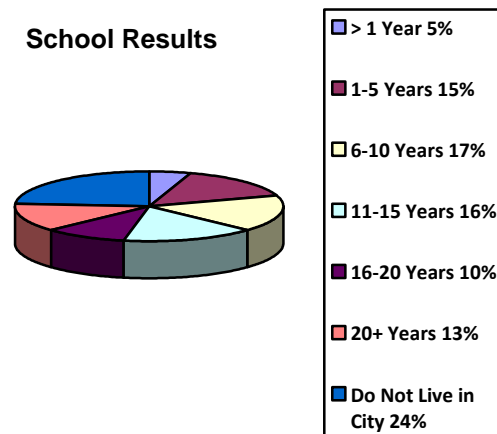
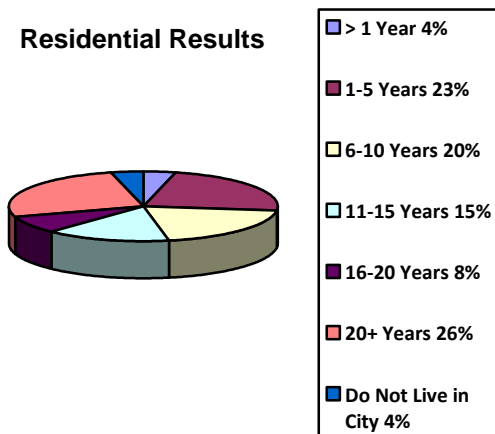
❖ How would you like Hendersonville to pay for new amenities in the parks or new parks?



❖ How would you vote on a bond referendum to fund the acquisition, improvement and development of the types of parks, trails, greenspace and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?



❖ How long have you lived the City of Hendersonville?



- ❖ Please indicate all the reasons your household uses Hendersonville’s parks and greenways. (Top ten out of twenty-one possible selections.)

Residential Surveys

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Enjoyment of the outdoors | 14% |
| Bike/walk paths | 10% |
| Walk/jog/run | 9% |
| Improved physical fitness | 9% |
| Close to home | 9% |
| Facilities well maintained | 6% |
| Safety of park & facilities | 6% |
| Walking the dog | 6% |
| Availability of parking | 6% |
| Playground/picnicking | 4% |

School Surveys

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Enjoyment of the outdoors | 12% |
| Bike/walk paths | 8% |
| Walk/jog/run | 8% |
| Playground area | 7% |
| Multipurpose/sports fields | 7% |
| Improved physical fitness | 6% |
| Close to home | 6% |
| Swim/pool | 6% |
| Walking the dog | 5% |
| Picnicking/family gatherings | 5% |

- ❖ From the list below, please select the top five additional recreation facilities or amenities you would like to see located in Hendersonville. (Top ten of twenty-five possible selections)

Residential Surveys

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Bike/walk paths | 12% |
| Nature trails | 10% |
| Rails to trails | 8% |
| Greenway expansion | 8% |
| Fitness trails | 7% |
| Off-leash dog park | 7% |
| Indoor pool | 6% |
| Splash park | 6% |
| Benches | 5% |
| Playgrounds/neighborhood parks | 4% |

School Surveys

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Indoor pool | 11% |
| Splash park | 10% |
| Climbing wall | 8% |
| Bike/walk paths | 7% |
| Bocce ball | 7% |
| Playgrounds | 6% |
| Nature trails | 5% |
| Off-leash dog park | 5% |
| Soccer fields | 5% |
| Sand volleyball/basketball | 4% |

- ❖ What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using park facilities?

Residential Surveys

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Lack of time | 30% |
| Concerns about safety | 18% |
| Lack of interest | 10% |
| Poor health/mobility | 10% |
| Parks too far away | 10% |
| Don’t offer what I want | 10% |
| Other | 10% |
| Lack of parking | 1% |
| Lack of ADA parking | 1% |

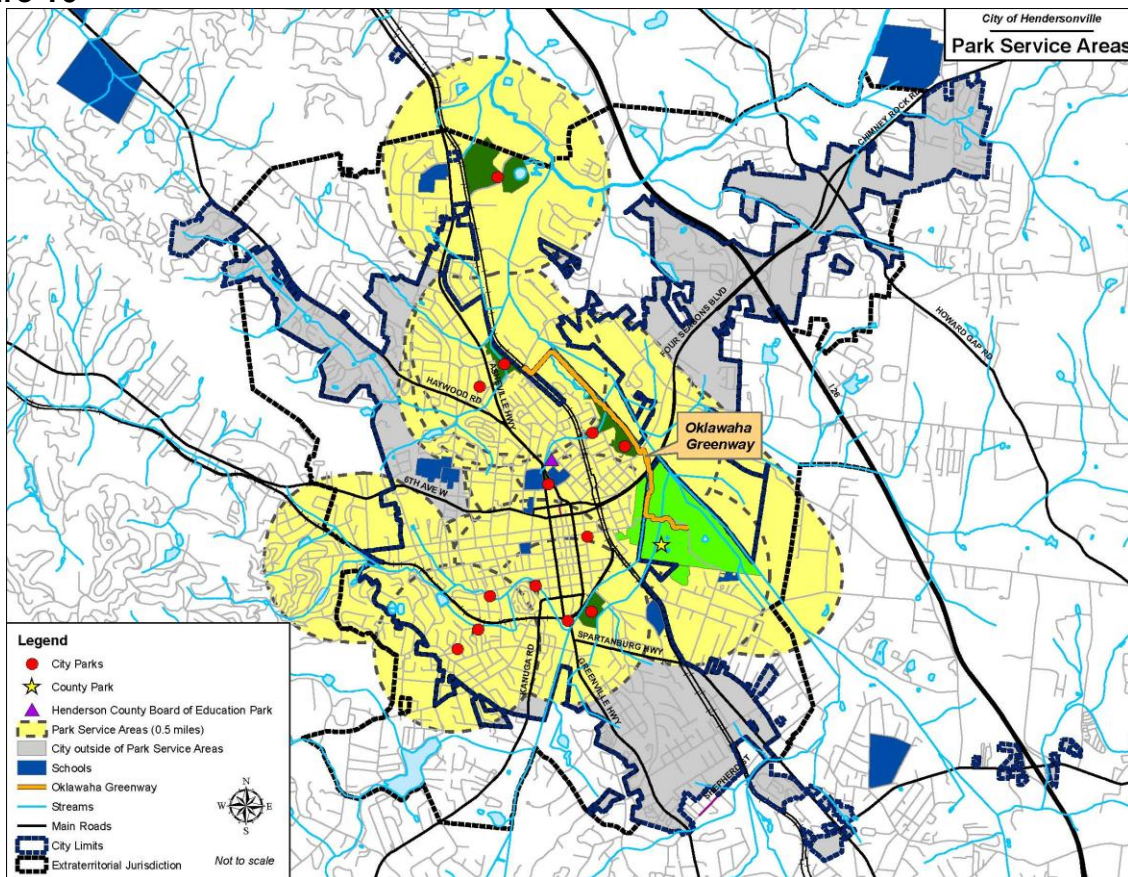
School Surveys

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Lack of time | 40% |
| Concerns about safety | 20% |
| Lack of interest | 12% |
| Poor health/mobility | 11% |
| Parks too far away | 11% |
| Don’t offer what I want | 4% |
| Other | 0% |
| Lack of parking | 1% |
| Lack of ADA parking | 1% |

Park Service Area

The map below shows City parks with a ½ mile radius drawn around each park shown in yellow. The purpose of identifying the ½ mile radius is to determine which neighborhoods are served by some type of park facility that is within a ten minute walk and which neighborhoods are underserved by parks located nearby. For many, having a park nearby that is within walking distance is a priority. When asked whether there are sufficient parks and greenspace areas within walking distance from where one lives, 58% of the residential property survey respondents and 55% of school survey respondents stated no.

Figure 16



Many of Hendersonville parks are located in older established neighborhoods. The grey areas represent locations where there are no park facilities within ½ mile. There exist no public park facilities within the city limits east of Mud Creek, south of the intersection of Spartanburg Highway and Greenville Highway nor northwest out Haywood Road. Many newer developments in these areas are designed as planned communities and some include basic park-like amenities such as walking trails intended for use only by the residents of that specific development. Those amenities are not open to the general public. Developing park amenities as part of the redevelopment of the City owned property on Sugarloaf Road can help to alleviate the park deficiencies in that area. Resources to purchase property for future parks should be directed toward serving those locations that are currently underserved.

Level of Service

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) created level of service guidelines to assist in determining whether a jurisdiction is meeting the specific amenities that should be provided and the recommended number of acres of park land based on specific park types. These guidelines are intended as a starting point and do not necessarily take into account changing recreational patterns or localized desires of a specific community. The levels of service calculations are based on the number of certain park facilities per capita and the park classification in acres per capita.

Types of Parks

Mini Park

Mini parks are the smallest park classification. Mini parks are three acres or less in size and have a service area within a ½ mile radius. These parks are an amenity for community members living in the immediate vicinity as opposed to serving the larger community. Due to their size, these parks are limited in the range of park amenities they can offer. They can provide active-use amenities such as playground equipment, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and open play areas. Common passive-use amenities include greenspaces, gazebos, picnic tables, benches and gardens.

Hendersonville's Mini Parks

| Park Name | Acres |
|------------------|-------------|
| Boyd Park | 1.7 |
| Bryan Park | 0.37 |
| Gateway Park | 0.35 |
| Keith Park | 0.46 |
| Dr. MLK Jr. Park | 0.23 |
| Lenox Park | 0.44 |
| Rotary Park | 1.0 |
| Total | 4.55 |

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks can range in size from 5 acres to 20 acres and have a service area within a one mile radius. Neighborhood parks typically provide active-use amenities such as multi-use fields, ball courts, open play areas and playground equipment. Common passive-use amenities include greenspaces, pavilions, gazebos, picnic tables, group picnic areas, benches, trails and gardens.

Hendersonville's Neighborhood Parks

| Park Name | Acres |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| W.H. King Memorial Park | 10 |
| J. H. Sullivan Park | 18 |
| Toms Park | 2.6 |
| Total | 30.6 |

Community Park

Community parks can range from 15 acres to over 100 acres and tend to serve the needs of several neighborhoods or an entire community depending on the size of the community. Community parks have a service area up to a radius of five miles. Community parks provide opportunities for amenities and facilities on a community wide basis. They can include active-use amenities such as multi-use fields, ball courts and playground equipment along with special use amenities such as baseball fields, soccer fields and community centers, swimming pools and skate parks. Common passive-use amenities include greenspaces, pavilions, gazebos, picnic tables, group picnic areas, benches, trails and gardens.

Hendersonville’s Community Parks

| Park Name | Acres |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Berkeley Mills Park | 60 |
| Patton Park | 18 |
| Total | 78 |

Regional Park

Regional parks are large park and recreation areas that contain a variety of amenities intended to serve users not just locally but from an entire region. Regional parks contain a mix of amenities, some of which are oriented towards a single purpose such as programmed sports and can be used to hold tournaments. There are no recommended levels of service for regional parks. With 212 acres, Jackson Park, owned and operated by Henderson County, is adjacent to the City limits and functions as a regional park.

Hendersonville’s Regional Parks

| Park Name | Acres |
|---------------------------|------------|
| County Owned Jackson Park | 212 |
| Total | 212 |

Recommended Level of Service

The following table outlines the NRPA recommended number of acres for mini parks, neighborhood parks and community parks, along with the number of acres Hendersonville provides to meet these recommendations based on current population.

| Park Category | Min. Acres/1000 pop. | NRPA Target/Acres | Acres Provided |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Mini Parks | .25 | 3.3 | 4.55 |
| Neighborhood Parks | 1.0 | 13 | 30.6 |
| Community Parks | 5.0 | 65.7 | 78 |

Types of Amenities

The following two tables outline the NRPA recommended level of service (LOS) for specific park amenities. One table is for athletic facilities and one table is for non-athletic facilities. Athletic facilities are those that tend to host organized team sports such as football, baseball and soccer.

Some park amenity categories are not covered by NRPA and some level of service recommendations are outdated. Outdated examples include the level of service recommendation for soccer fields and racquetball courts. Today, the NRPA recommends developing level of services that reflect the values of the specific community. A local level of service is provided with adjusted amounts to reflect Hendersonville's localized desires. In order to accurately reflect what is available in the Hendersonville community, Jackson Park along with public schools and non-profit organizations are also listed as "additional athletic and non-athletic facilities." The tables include the following categories:

Facility Type – This column describes each type of facility or amenity.

Existing City Parks – This column shows the number of facilities or amenities located within Hendersonville's parks.

1995 NRPA LOS per Population – This column shows the NRPA recommended number of facilities based on population. For example 1/1,000 is a recommendation of one facility for every 1,000 citizens.

Current LOS per Population – This column shows Hendersonville's level of service based on NRPA guidelines and the current population. For example 1/4,378 is one facility for every 4,378 citizens.

Local LOS per Population – This column shows the adjusted level of service based on survey results, staff research and information from other jurisdictions.

2020 Total LOS per Population – This column shows the number of facilities needed to serve the estimated 2020 population based on local level of service recommendations.

Jackson Park – This column shows the type and number of facilities located at Jackson Park.

Existing Public Schools – This column shows the number of facilities located at public schools that are within two miles of the City limits.

Existing Non-Profit – This column shows facilities that are located at non-profits such as churches, the YMCA and the Boy & Girls Club and are accessible to the general public.

| <u>Athletic Facilities</u> | | <u>Additional Athletic Facilities</u> | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Facility Type | Existing City Parks | 1995 NRPA LOS/Pop. | Current LOS/Pop. (13,135) | Local LOS/Pop. | 2020 Total LOS/Pop. (16,287) | Jackson Park | Existing Public Schools ¹ | Existing Non Profit ² |
| Baseball Field | 2 | 1/5,000 | 1/6,568 | 1/5,000 | 3.3 | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Basketball Court | 4 | 1/5,000 | 1/3,284 | 1/3,000 | 5.4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Football Field ³ | 0 | 1/20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Gymnasium | 0 | 1/20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 6 |
| Multi-Use Field | 2 | N/A | 1/6,568 | 1/5,000 | 3.3 | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| Racquetball Courts | 4 | 1/20,000 | 1/6,568 | 1/20,000 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recreation Center | 0 | 1/20,000 | 0 | 1/20,000 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Soccer Field ³ | 0 | 1/10,000 | 0 | 1/4,000 | 4.1 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Softball Field | 1 | 1/5,000 | 1/13,135 | 1/5,000 | 3.3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tennis Courts | 4 | 1/2,000 | 1/3,284 | 1/2,000 | 8.1 | 8 | 12 | 4 |
| Volleyball (Sand) | 0 | 1/5,000 | 0 | 1/5,000 | 3.3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

¹ Public schools within 2 miles of City limits

² Examples include churches, YMCA & Boys & Girls Club

³ Public schools have football/soccer/track stadium combined

Non-Athletic Facilities

Additional Non-Athletic Facilities

| Facility Type | Existing City Parks | 1995 NRPA LOS/Pop. | Current LOS/Pop. (13,135) | Local LOS/Pop. | 2020 LOS/Pop. (16,287) | Jackson Park | Existing Public Schools ¹ | Existing Non Profit ² |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BMX Parks | 0 | N/A | 0 | 1/50,000 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Center | 1 (9,100 sq. ft.) | N/A | 700 sq. ft. /1,000 | N/A | 11,401 sq. ft. | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Concession Stand | 3 | N/A | 1/4,378 | N/A | N/A | Yes | N/A | N/A |
| Community Garden | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Disc Golf | 0 | N/A | 0 | 1/10,000 | 1.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog Parks (Off Leash) | 0 | N/A | 0 | 1/7,500 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fitness Stations | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Miniature Golf | 1 | N/A | 1/13,135 | N/A | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pavilions/Gazebos | 8 | 1/2,000 | 1/1,642 | 1/2,000 | 8.1 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Pedestrian Bridges | 4 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Picnic Tables | 10 | N/A | 1/1,314 | 1/500 | 32.5 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Playgrounds | 3 | 1/1,000 | 1/4,378 | 1/2,000 | 8.1 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Pool (Leisure) | 1 | 1/20,000 | 1/13,135 | 1/20,000 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pool (Fitness/Lap) | 0 | N/A | | 1/20,000 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Racquetball Courts | 4 | 1/20,000 | 1/6,568 | 1/10,000 | 1.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Restrooms | 4 | N/A | 1/3,284 | N/A | N/A | 5 | N/A | N/A |
| Shuffle Board Courts | 27 | N/A | 1/486 | N/A | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Skate Parks | 1 | N/A | 1/13,135 | 1/50,000 | 0.33 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Splash Parks | 0 | N/A | 0 | 1/30,000 | 0.54 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trails (Paved) | 3.1 Miles | N/A | N/A | 1m/2,000 | 8.1 Miles | Yes | 0 | 0 |
| Trails (Soft Surface) | 0.82 Miles | N/A | N/A | 1m/5,000 | 3.3 Miles | Yes | Yes | 0 |

¹ Public schools within 2 miles of City limits

² Examples include churches, YMCA & Boys & Girls Club

Chapter 5

Goals, Strategies and Actions

The Park and Greenspace Task Force reviewed the goals, strategies and actions listed under the Community Facilities element in the 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan as they relate to parks. Those goals, strategies and actions are listed in this chapter with Task Force recommended modifications and new enumerations. Also listed in this chapter are the goals and actions from the 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan Natural and Environmental Resources section which provides guidance on greenspaces within the City.

Goal #1 ***Maintain existing parks and facilities to a standard that upholds a positive community image and ensures the safety of patrons.***

Strategy 1.1

Balance investment in new park locations and amenities with existing park maintenance needs.

Action 1.1.1 Allocate funds and maximize efficiency to ensure adequate staffing and equipment to maintain parks.

Action 1.1.2 Continuously monitor the condition of existing equipment, along with maintenance and replacement schedules.

Action 1.1.3 Update existing equipment and facilities in parks as needed to meet safety and accessibility standards.

Action 1.1.4 Replace outdated and unsafe equipment as necessary, based on recommendations by organizations concerned with playground safety.

Action 1.1.5 Ensure that all new equipment and playground design conforms to modern playground safety standards.

Playground Safety Organizations and Standards

The following organizations are concerned with playground safety in the US:

NRPA – National Recreation and Park Association

www.nrpa.org

CPSC – US Consumer Product Safety Commission

www.cpsc.gov

ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials International

www.astm.org

Playground Safety Organizations and Standards Continued

IPEMA – International Playground Equipment Manufacture’s Association

www.ipema.org

NCPAI – National Playground Contractors Association

www.playground-contractors.org

NPPS – National Program for Playground Safety

www.uni.edu/playground

The following are primary sources for playground safety documents and standards:

CPSC Publication #325, 2010 – Handbook for Public Playground Safety

ASTM F1487-05 – Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use

ASTM F 1292 – Method to Test Impact Attenuation of Safety Surfacing for Playgrounds

ASTM F 1951 – Method to Test Accessibility of Safety Surfacing for Playgrounds

ASTM F 2049 – Guide for Fencing/Barriers for Playgrounds

ASTM F 2075 – Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing

ASTM F 2373 – Play Equipment for Children Under the Age of Two

Strategy 1.2

Supplement City park resources with volunteer groups to maintain and enhance parks or park features.

Action 1.2.1 Supply equipment and/or expertise to volunteer groups that agree to maintain and enhance parks or park elements.

Action 1.2.2 Support and supervise volunteer activities to avoid duplication of work or conflicts with City operations and to assure quality and consistency.

Goal #2 *Promote parks to residents and visitors to increase utilization and awareness and advertise the community’s assets.*

Strategy 2.1

Create a strong theme and brand for parks in order to increase the parks visibility and the communities awareness of park amenities.

Action 2.1.1 Create consistent imagery and logos to be used in park signage, the City’s website, and informational brochures.

Action 2.1.2 Develop a park facility brochure to promote awareness of City and County parks.

Action 2.1.3 Provide wayfinding signage to assist residents and visitors in awareness and location of parks.

Strategy 2.2

Support programming of parks with cultural events and recreational programs.

Action 2.2.1 Coordinate with the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department, schools and private athletic organizations to program and manage athletic events in Hendersonville parks.

Action 2.2.2 Provide detailed information on the City's website about park facilities and amenities in order to assist event planners.

Strategy 2.3

Promote Berkeley Park, Patton Park and Henderson County's Jackson Park as focal points in the County and City park systems.

Action 2.3.1 Coordinate park branding efforts and design with Henderson County in order to provide a consistent look to be used by all county government entities.

Action 2.3.2 Coordinate with Henderson County and other county municipalities when identifying space for special and cultural events.

Action 2.3.3 Highlight Berkeley Park, Patton Park and Jackson Park in promotional efforts as community parks for the Hendersonville community.

Goal #3 *Expand and adjust park amenities and greenspaces to match community needs and expectations.*

Strategy 3.1

Evaluate park facilities and greenspaces on an ongoing basis.

Action 3.1.1 Establish an ad hoc committee comprised of staff and other interested parties to evaluate park facilities and greenspaces on an ongoing basis. The committee should have a clear purpose and direction to include evaluating park usage and recommending the redesign or replacement of underutilized or outdated facilities.

Action 3.1.2 Gauge utilization of existing facilities through public input meetings, interviews and/or focus groups that involve citizens, recreation staff and representatives of athletic organizations.

Action 3.1.3 Periodically conduct surveys of park users to assess park needs and desires.

Action 3.1.4 Identify desired numbers of each type of recreation amenity per population or households, based on an analysis of national standards, comparable

communities and community input.

Action 3.1.5 Establish level of service standards to measure how well the City is meeting community recreation needs and update periodically to reflect community preference changes.

Action 3.1.6 Coordinate and compliment park amenities with the regional community.

Strategy 3.2

Update the Park and Greenspace Master Plan.

Action 3.2.1 Review the Park and Greenspace Master Plan every 5 years and update as necessary.

Action 3.2.2 Incorporate the recommendations of the ad hoc committee mentioned in Action 3.1.1 into the updated Park and Greenspace Master Plan as is appropriate.

Strategy 3.3

Provide detailed recommendations for new park acquisitions, improvements to existing parkland, and replacement of underutilized or outdated equipment.

Action 3.3.1 Develop concept plans and cost estimates.

Action 3.3.2 Identify implementation resources and integrate with capital improvement planning and department work programs.

Strategy 3.4

Ensure that new parks are designed as safe environments for all users.

Action 3.4.1 Ensure that new equipment meets modern safety requirements.

Action 3.4.2 Consider public safety and natural surveillance when designing new parks. Site planning should address issues such as lighting, location and visibility of amenities and relationship to surrounding land uses.

Action 3.4.3 Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques when renovating existing parks or establishing new parks.

Action 3.4.5 Ensure parks can be accessed safely by all practical modes of transportation.

Goal #4 *Encourage that a park and/or accessible open space is available within a ten minute walk of each neighborhood.*

Strategy 4.1

Encourage community open-space or play areas in new and existing residential neighborhoods.

Action 4.1.1 Seek opportunities to acquire additional park land in existing neighborhoods that are under served.

Action 4.1.2 Incorporate recreational amenity requirements and/or incentives in the Planned Residential Development District.

Action 4.1.3 Maintain open space set-aside standards and incentives in the Planned Residential Development District.

Strategy 4.2

Develop existing City-owned vacant parcels within existing neighborhoods into mini parks and gathering places.

Action 4.2.1 Develop parks on City-owned vacant parcels that serve areas that are not already within ½ mile of a Neighborhood or Community Park.

Action 4.2.2 Sell City-owned vacant parcels that lack the potential for future parks or other city functions and utilized the proceeds to develop other areas.

Strategy 4.3

Acquire and develop parkland within environmentally sensitive areas such as stream corridors in order to increase parkland. Environmentally sensitive areas are found throughout the City and provide a potential means of expanding parkland into under-served areas.

Action 4.3.1 Identify properties with a potential for parkland and inquire if the property is available for purchase.

Action 4.3.2 Seek grant dollars for purchasing future park land.

Goal #5 *Link parks to neighborhoods in order to increase park utilization and supplement the park system.*

Strategy 5.1

Create “park streets” that extend parks into neighborhoods by utilizing unique signage, landscaping, street trees and pedestrian path treatment.

Action 5.1.1 Designate “park street” routes along key streets leading to and from parks and greenway access points.

Action 5.1.2 Coordinate “park street” efforts with stormwater management improvements by utilizing these streets as demonstration projects for alternative, low-impact street design.

Strategy 5.2

Preserve and expand the public greenway system as a means of connecting neighborhoods to parks and increasing recreational amenities and green infrastructure.

Action 5.2.1 Construct trails along stream corridors, particularly major streams such as Mud Creek that provide broad connectivity to parks, neighborhoods and other communities.

Action 5.2.2 Design and place amenities so as to minimize impact on natural systems. Promote passive activities such as wildlife observation, walking and hiking in highly sensitive areas.

Action 5.2.3 Connect local greenways with regional planned greenways.

Action 5.2.4 Work with other local governments to prioritize greenway segments and pursue funding for property acquisition, conservation easements and construction.

Action 5.2.5 Pursue rails-to-trails opportunities as they arise. An example is the Norfolk-Southern rail line, which could provide a potential greenway link to Brevard.

The 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan Natural and Environmental Resources section provides guidance on greenspaces within the City. Listed below are the goals from this chapter and a selection of specific actions as they relate to greenspace and parks. The specific strategies to achieve these goals can be found in the 2030 Hendersonville Comprehensive Plan.

Goal NR-1 Preserve environmentally sensitive areas in order to protect life and property from natural hazards, protect water resources and preserve natural habitat.

Action NR-1.1.2 Encourage the reduction of existing impervious surfaces located in the floodway and 100-year floodplain when redeveloping.

Action NR-1.1.3 Pursue grants to acquire properties in floodprone areas for the purpose of flood storage and stormwater treatment.

Action NR-1.1.4 Encourage the preservation of existing flood storage areas.

Action NR-1.2.1 Encourage protection of streams and wetlands and land adjacent to them

Action NR-1.3.2 Pursue grants to acquire developed floodplain properties when available and restore the sites to a natural state.

Goal NR-2 Provide a variety of quality open space, distributed equitably throughout Hendersonville, which can be used for recreational opportunities and aesthetic enhancements.

Action NR-2.4.1 Encourage development and redevelopment projects to provide open space areas that connect to planned green infrastructure areas.

Goal NR-3 Reduce the ecological footprint of developed and developing areas in order to reduce the impact on natural resources, create a healthy, sustainable community and reduce energy costs.

Goal NR-4 Preserve Hendersonville's agricultural resources in order to maintain a rich heritage and promote locally-grown food.

Chapter 6

Master Plan Recommendations

As part of the initial discussion, the Task Force considered the following future park amenities for the City of Hendersonville:

- ❖ Bike Rentals
- ❖ Children’s Gardens
- ❖ Community Gardens
- ❖ Concert Space
- ❖ Dog Park
- ❖ Educational Opportunities
- ❖ Disc Golf
- ❖ Greenway Extension (North & South)
- ❖ Indoor Pool
- ❖ Improved Landscaping
- ❖ Lighted Recreation Fields
- ❖ Mountain Bike Trails
- ❖ Park Manager/Employees
- ❖ Pavilions
- ❖ Pedestrian Connections
- ❖ Non-Traditional Play Equipment
- ❖ Playground Equipment
- ❖ Restrooms
- ❖ Security/Safety
- ❖ Soccer Fields
- ❖ Special Needs Activities
- ❖ Splash Park
- ❖ Volunteer Help
- ❖ Walking Trails/Paths
- ❖ Water Fountains
- ❖ Water Features

Following are the Task Force’s specific recommendations for each of the City’s existing parks and city owned vacant lands located within the city limits. Task Force members, the Mayor and City Council participated in an exercise to prioritize the individual items recommended by the Task Force for each park. In the following tables, and one column reflects the Mayor and City Council recommendations and one column reflects the Task Force recommendations. Information is also provided on the City Council endorsed recommendations for the Southside Park.

At the last Task Force working meeting a petition was provided from Students Warning Against Tobacco requesting that parks be 100% tobacco free. After some discussion, the Task Force recommended to create specific smoking areas or completely ban smoking in City parks.

Hendersonville Tree Board

In addition to the Task Force recommendations, the Hendersonville Tree Board has requested that park and non-park properties be considered as sites for additional tree plantings. Since there are limited areas along rights-of way for medium and large trees due to utility considerations, road expansion, sidewalk conflicts and harsh growing conditions, the Tree Board views public parks as areas where additional tree planting can occur which “will create a healthy and thriving ecosystem within our urban setting for the use and enjoyment of future generations.” The Tree Board also recognizes that some park and non-park properties have wetland or lowland areas that are suitable for tree plantings but not necessarily suitable for other uses.

Berkeley Mills Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baseball Field | Trail Improvements/Expansion | #1 (Tie) | #1 (Tie) |
| Concession Stand | ADA Accessible Playground | #1 (Tie) | #1 (Tie) |
| On-Site | Park Signage Improvements & Visibility | #1 (Tie) | #7 (Tie) |
| Parking Picnic Pavilion (1,680 sq. ft.) | Natural Amphitheater | #2 | #1 (Tie) |
| Picnic Pavilion (744 sq. ft.) | Develop a Park Master Plan | #3 (Tie) | #2 (Tie) |
| ADA Accessible Restrooms | Off Leash Dog Park (Western Portion) | #3 (Tie) | #5 (Tie) |
| Walking/Nature Trails | Parking Improvements | #3 (Tie) | #7 (Tie) |
| | Mountain Bike Trail (Quarry Area) | #3 (Tie) | #2 (Tie) |
| | Stadium Rehabilitation | #3 (Tie) | #3 |
| | Safe Pedestrian Access Across Balfour Road | #4 (Tie) | #4 |
| | Lighting for Collegiate Baseball Games | #4 (Tie) | #5 (Tie) |
| | Trail Markers | No Votes | #6 (Tie) |
| | Trail Distance Markers | No Votes | #6 (Tie) |
| | Trail Map | No Votes | #7 (Tie) |

The survey included a question regarding what amenities the respondent would like to see at Berkeley Park. Following are the most common requests:

- ❖ Walking Trails
- ❖ Soccer Fields
- ❖ Playground
- ❖ Dog Park
- ❖ Bike Paths
- ❖ Picnic Areas
- ❖ Swings
- ❖ Tennis Courts
- ❖ Baseball Field
- ❖ Basketball Courts
- ❖ Pool

Bryan Park

The Task Force, The Mayor and City Council did not review Bryan Park. Bryan Park consists of large trees and grass area and functions as greenspace between Lennox Park Drive and Bryan Avenue. See Chapter 3 Existing Park Facilities for more information on Bryan Park.

Boyd Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miniature Golf Course | Upgrade All Lighting | #1 (Tie) | #1 |
| Tennis Courts (2) | Park Signage Improvements & Visibility | #1 (Tie) | #4 |
| | Increase Miniature Golf Hours and Season | #1 (Tie) | #3 |
| | Improve Pedestrian Access and Safety at Street Intersections | No Votes | #2 |

Gateway Park

Since City Council already has a plan for Gateway Park, the Task Force did not make any recommendations for this park. See Chapter 3 Existing Park Facilities for more information on Gateway Park.

Keith Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| No Park Amenities | Benches | #1 | #1 |
| Greenspace | Picnic Tables | #2 | #3 |
| | Park Signage Improvements & Visibility | #3 | #2 |

William H. King Memorial Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baseball Field | Continue Hendersonville High School Maintenance | #1 (Tie) | #1 (Tie) |
| Mud Creek | Park Signage Improvements & Visibility | #1 (Tie) | #1 (Tie) |
| Oklawaha Greenway | Wetland Restoration | No Votes | #2 |
| On-Site Parking | | | |
| Walking Trail | | | |

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Benches | Picnic Table Shelter | #1 | #2 (Tie) |
| Engraved Granite Memorial | Fountain | #2 (Tie) | #2 (Tie) |
| Picnic Tables | Signage From Main Street | #2 (Tie) | #3 |
| Walking Path | Bench Swing | #2 (Tie) | #6 |
| | Shade Tree Plantings Near Seating | #3 (Tie) | #2 (Tie) |
| | Park Signage Improvements & Visibility | #3 (Tie) | #4 |
| | Chess Tables | No Votes | #1 |
| | Additional Benches | No Votes | #5 |

Lenox Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Capped Lennox Spring | Benches/Seating | #1 (Tie) | #6 |
| Outdoor Grill | Daylight Lennox Spring | #1 (Tie) | #2 |
| Picnic Table | Lennox Spring Fountain | #2 | #5 (Tie) |
| | Picnic Tables | #3 | #4 |
| | Shade Tree Plantings | #4 (Tie) | #1 |
| | Historical Marker | #4 (Tie) | #5 (Tie) |
| | Picnic Table Shelter | No Votes | #3 |

Oklawaha Greenway / Mud Creek Nature Trail

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Greenway | Additional Benches | #1 | #3 |
| Boardwalk | Berkeley Park Connection | #2 (Tie) | #1 |
| Interpretive Signage | Additional Interpretive Signage | #2 (Tie) | #4 |
| Benches | Wetland Restoration | #3 | #2 |
| | Additional Trash Receptacles | #4 (Tie) | #7 |
| | Additional Pet Waste Stations | #4 (Tie) | No Votes |
| | Seasonal Supervision | No Votes | #5 |
| | Buffer Plantings | No Votes | #6 (Tie) |
| | Vista Overlooks | No Votes | #6 (Tie) |

Patton Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Basketball Courts (2) | Replace Field Lights | #1 (Tie) | #1 |
| Baseball Field | Aquatic Facility/Indoor Pool Feasibility Study | #1 (Tie) | #2 |
| Brittain Creek | Picnic Tables Near Fast Food Businesses | #1 (Tie) | #3 |
| Concession Stand (Seasonal) | Additional Benches | #1 (Tie) | #4 (Tie) |
| Gazebos (2) | Upgrade Benches | #1 (Tie) | No Votes |
| Interpretative Signage | Additional Interpretive Signage | #2 | #6 |
| Multi-Use Fields (2) | Bicycle Rentals | #3 (Tie) | #4 (Tie) |
| Oklawaha Greenway | Off Leash Dog Park | #3 (Tie) | #5 |
| On-Site Parking | | | |
| Pedestrian Bridges (3) | | | |
| Picnic Pavilion (1,091 sq. ft.) | | | |
| Picnic Pavilion (2,193 sq. ft.) | | | |
| Playground for Tots | | | |
| Racquetball Courts | | | |
| ADA Accessible Restrooms | | | |
| Skate Park | | | |
| Swimming Pool | | | |
| Tennis Courts (2) | | | |
| Walking Pathway | | | |

Rotary Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benches/Seating | Upgrade Playground Equipment | #1 (Tie) | #1 |
| Picnic Tables | Improve Park Signage & Visibility | #1 (Tie) | #3 |
| Picnic Pavilion | Increased Lighting | #2 (Tie) | #2 (Tie) |
| Playground | Restrooms | #2 (Tie) | #5 |
| Walking Trail | Shade Tree Plantings Near Seating | #3 | #2 (Tie) |
| Wash Creek | Trail Distance Markers | No Votes | #4 |

J. H. Sullivan Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Covered Basketball Courts (Lighted) | Community Garden | #1 (Tie) | #2 |
| Mud Creek | Community Ownership/Involvement | #1 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| Oklawaha Greenway | Scheduled Events Utilizing Covered Basketball Area | #2 | #1 |
| Pedestrian Bridge | Oklawaha Greenway Connection | #3 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| Picnic Pavilion | Improve Security | #3 (Tie) | #4 (Tie) |
| Playground | Tree Plantings | #3 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| Restrooms (Closed) | Playground Equipment Expansion | #3 (Tie) | No Votes |
| Roller Skating Area | Directional Signage Along Major Roads | #3 (Tie) | No Votes |
| Tributary to Mud Creek | Playground Equipment Upgrade | #4 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| | Improve Park Signage & Visibility | #4 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| | Tributary Bank Restoration | #4 (Tie) | #4 (Tie) |
| | Create A Destination Park | #5 (Tie) | #6 |
| | Splash Park | #5 (Tie) | No Votes |
| | Paved Loop Trail/Pathway | No Votes | #4 (Tie) |
| | Tributary Interpretive Signage | No Votes | #5 |
| | Open Restrooms | No Votes | No Votes |
| | Trail/Pathway Distance Markers | No Votes | No Votes |

Toms Park

| Existing Amenities | Task Force Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Whitmire Activity Center (9,100 sq. ft.) | Improve Park Signage & Visibility | #1 (Tie) | #1 |
| On-Site Parking | Picnic Pavilion | #1 (Tie) | #4 |
| Pedestrian Bridge | Wash Creek Interpretive Signage | #2 | #5 |
| Picnic Tables | Wash Creek Restoration | #3 (Tie) | #2 |
| Shuffle Board Courts (27) | Splash Park | #3 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| Wash Creek | Shade Tree Plantings Around Picnic Areas | #3 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |
| | Increase Security | #4 (Tie) | #3 (Tie) |

Southside Park

The City of Henderson acquired these 14 acres on South Grove Street in 2002 through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This site, along with another site south on Greenville Highway (NC 225), was to serve as flood storage and storm water treatment. In May of 2002, a conservation easement was established between the City of Hendersonville and the State of North Carolina. The purpose of the easement is to maintain, restore, enhance and create a wetland and/or riparian resource on this property to protect and improve water quality, flood prevention, fisheries, aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Upon review by Michael McDonald, Western Regional Office Supervisor for the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program, he concluded that due to the quantity of fill on the site and the deposited sediment due to a man-made breach of a section of berm prior to the 2004 hurricanes, the project would be cost prohibitive and he recommended the site be used for other purposes such as recreation.

The property is level and sits at approximately 2,084 mean sea level. Mud Creek runs along the entire northwestern boundary. Johnson Drainage Ditch runs along the southeastern boundary. Both Mud Creek and Johnson Drainage Ditch are designated as blue line streams on the 1997 USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle map. There are two interior drainage ditches located on the property that are included in a survey completed by Steven Lloyd Waggoner dated 5/29/2001 and they are not designated as blue line streams according to USGS maps. Past use of the property included agricultural uses and the growing of annual crops. Currently the property is fallow and is not used for agricultural purposes.

In October of 2007, the US Army Corps of Engineers surveyed the site and delineated the wetlands. Of the 14 acres, approximately five acres are delineated as wetlands. The City of Hendersonville intends to use the preservation of these wetlands as an ecological educational tool to include signage identifying the wetlands and their ecological significance. The entire 14 acres are located within the floodway which, in addition to the conservation easement, limits development potential.

The Engineering Department created a conceptual park plan for this property called the Southside Recreation Field. The park design included two 50 X 80 yard soccer fields, a fitness trail, a dog park, an ADA compliant playground, a community garden, restrooms and wetland preservation area.

A design charette was held with volunteers from local land planning professionals on July 29, 2010 and a new plan was created. That plan was presented to City Council on December 6, 2010. Although there are specific restrictions on how the property can be used due to the Conservation Easement, the Western Implementation Project Manager for the Ecosystem Enhancement Program informed the City Council at this meeting that

they are willing to coordinate with the City on any proposed improvements. Recommendations as a result of the design charette for the Southside Park include:

| Recommendations | Mayor & Council Ranking | Task Force Ranking |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nature/Walking Trail | #1 (Tie) | #1 |
| Pedestrian Connection to Gateway Park | #1 (Tie) | #5 (Tie) |
| On-Site Parking | #1 (Tie) | #10 |
| Playground | #2 (Tie) | #2 |
| Picnic Areas | #2 (Tie) | #5 (Tie) |
| Wetland Boardwalk/Wildlife Viewing Platforms | #3 (Tie) | #4 |
| Interpretive Signage | #3 (Tie) | #8 |
| Pond | #4 (Tie) | #9 |
| Realignment of Drainage Ditches to Reflect Natural Stream Meandering | #4 (Tie) | #3 |
| Great Lawns (2) | #5 (Tie) | #6 (Tie) |
| Pavilion/Gazebo | #5 (Tie) | #7 (Tie) |
| Removal of Invasive Species | #5 (Tie) | #7 (Tie) |
| Mud Creek Restoration | No Votes | #6 (Tie) |
| Wetland Enhancement | No Votes | #7 (Tie) |

The following table shows the number of households within ½ mile and 1 mile.

| Distance From Park | Households within 0.5 Miles | Households within 1 Mile |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Southside Park | 619 | 2,783 |

Figure 17 is a conceptual plan for the Southside Park. Hendersonville City Council has endorsed this plan. As part of the design process, additional properties not owned by the City of Hendersonville or under City control are included in the conceptual plan and are located to the south and west of the original 14 acres. The plan differentiates these areas with a line titled *existing property boundary*.

Figure 17



Task Force Top Recommendations

Of all the park recommendations, the Task Force was given the opportunity to individually select what are considered the most important recommendations. Individuals of the Task Force were given a total of twenty votes each and were allowed a maximum of two votes per item. For example, if an individual felt a recommendation was particularly important, they could use up to two of their twenty votes for that one item. Listed below in order of importance are twenty recommendations that received the most votes. The number of votes is listed in parenthesis next to the recommendation.

- ❖ Oklawaha Greenway Connection to Berkeley Mills Park (22)
- ❖ Aquatic Facility/Indoor Pool Feasibility Study (15)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Master Plan (12)
- ❖ Southside Park Nature/Walking Trail (9)
- ❖ Southside Park Playground (7)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Community Ownership/Involvement (6)
- ❖ Toms Park Splash Park (6)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Natural Amphitheater (6)
- ❖ Southside Park Great Lawns (5)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Mountain Bike Trail (4)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Trail Improvements/Expansion (4)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Security Improvements (4)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Connection to Oklawaha Greenway (4)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Community Garden (4)
- ❖ Oklawaha Greenway Seasonal Supervision (4)
- ❖ Patton Park Field Light Replacement (4)
- ❖ Rotary Park Playground Equipment Upgrade (4)
- ❖ Southside Park Mud Creek Restoration (4)
- ❖ Southside Park Pedestrian Connection to Gateway Park (4)
- ❖ Southside Park Wetland Boardwalk/Wildlife Viewing Platforms (4)

Mayor & City Council Top Recommendations

Similar to the Task Force recommendations, the Mayor and City Council also individually selected what they considered the most important recommendations. Listed below are all the recommendations that received a vote. The number of votes received is listed in parenthesis next to the recommendation.

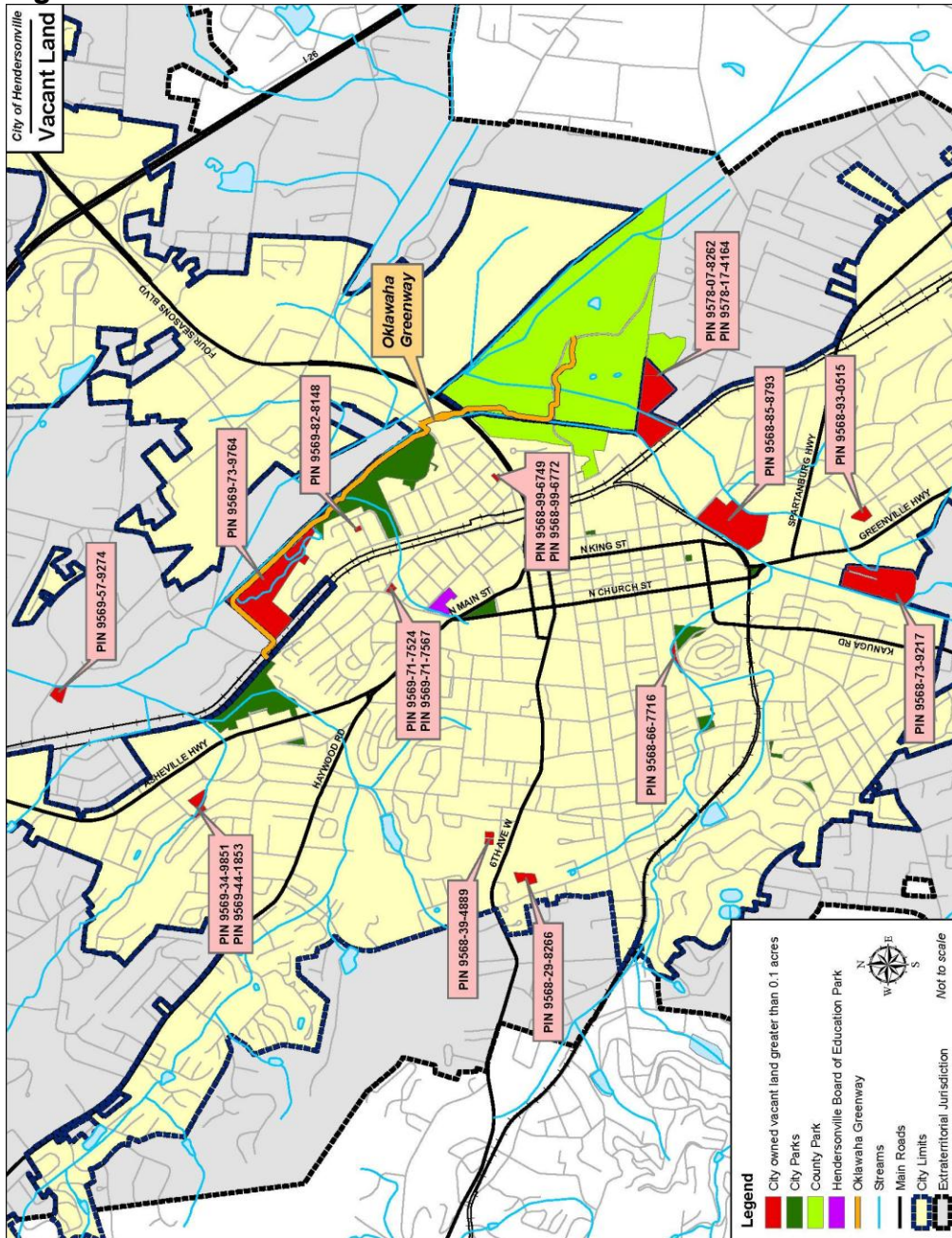
- ❖ Oklawaha Greenway Connection to Berkeley Mills Park (12)
- ❖ Aquatic Facility/Indoor Pool Feasibility Study (6)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Master Plan (5)
- ❖ Southside Park Nature/Walking Trail (5)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Stadium Rehabilitation (5)
- ❖ Toms Park Splash Park (5)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Trail Improvements/Expansion (4)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park ADA Accessible Playground (4)
- ❖ Boyd Park - Increase Miniature Golf Hours and Season (4)
- ❖ Lenox Park - Daylight Lennox Spring (4)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Community Ownership/Involvement (3)
- ❖ Southside Park Playground (3)
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Park Natural Amphitheater (2)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park – Scheduled Events In Covered Basketball Area (2)
- ❖ Lenox Park Lennox Spring Fountain (2)
- ❖ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park Fountain (2)
- ❖ Oklawaha Greenway Wetland Restoration (2)
- ❖ Patton Park – Replace Field Lights/Upgrade Benches (2)
- ❖ Patton Park – Picnic Tables Near Fast Food Businesses (2)
- ❖ Patton Park Bicycle Rentals (2)
- ❖ Rotary Park Playground Equipment Upgrade (2)
- ❖ Toms Park – Improve Park Signage And Visibility (2)

- ❖ Southside Park Pavilion (2)
- ❖ Southside Park On-Site Parking (2)
- ❖ Berkeley Park – Safe Pedestrian Access Across Balfour Road (1)
- ❖ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park - Improve Park Signage And Visibility (1)
- ❖ William H. King Memorial Park - Improve Park Signage And Visibility (1)
- ❖ Lenox Park Benches/Seating (1)
- ❖ Patton Park Off Leash Dog Park (1)
- ❖ Rotary Park - Improve Park Signage And Visibility (1)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park Oklawaha Greenway Connection (1)
- ❖ J. H. Sullivan Park – Improve Security (1)
- ❖ Southside Park Pedestrian Connection to Gateway Park (1)
- ❖ Southside Park Great Lawns (1)
- ❖ Southside Park Realignment of Drainage Ditches to Reflect Natural Stream Meandering (1)

Vacant Parcel Assessment and Recommendations

Following is a map of vacant parcels located within the city limits and owned by the City of Hendersonville. Individual parcel maps are included in Appendix A and are cross referenced with a capital letter. The Task Force evaluated each parcel and made recommendations on how these parcels could be utilized to further the goals for parks and greenspaces. The Mayor and City Council reviewed the Task Force recommendations. Additional comments from the Mayor and City Council are included.

Figure 18



Property A - PIN# 9569579274

This parcel consists of 1.22 acres and is located at 401 Berkeley Road. Mud Creek flows along the eastern edge of the parcel.

Recommendations:

Use this parcel for the expansion of the Oklawaha Greenway, greenway parking, restrooms and restoration of the stream bank and stream buffer.

Property B - PIN# 9569349851 and 9569441853

These two parcels consist of 1.72 acres and are located at the corner of Chelsea Street and Lower Ridgewood Boulevard. An un-named tributary flows through the two parcels.

Recommendations:

Create a neighborhood park by providing playground equipment and a community garden along with restoration of the stream bank and stream buffer.

Property C - PIN# 9569739764

This parcel consists of 23.5 acres and is southeast of where North Main Street crosses the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks. Currently the Oklawaha Greenway and a boardwalk are located on this parcel. Mud Creek flows along the eastern boundary and the parcel contains wetlands.

Recommendation:

Maintain as greenspace, add additional interpretive signage and consider Wood Duck habitat restoration. See Oklawaha Greenway for additional recommendations for this parcel.

Property D - PIN# 9569717524 and 9569717567

These two parcels, consisting of 0.38 acres, are located at the corner of North Main Street and Maple Street.

Recommendation:

Due to the limited size of these parcels, the recommendation is to sell for residential development potential. The Mayor and City Council recommended keeping these parcels for greenspace or a neighborhood park.

Property E - PIN# 9569828148

This parcel consists of 0.18 acres and is located on White Sparrow Street near the Boys and Girls Club.

Recommendation:

Given the nearby location of Sullivan Park, the recommendation is to sell this parcel. The Mayor and City Council recommended coordination with the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville for possible sale or lease.

Property F - PIN# 9568396944

This parcel consists of 0.63 acres and is located next to Oakland Cemetery.

Recommendation:

Once the new road is built, evaluate for potential sale. The Mayor and City Council recommended keeping this property for cemetery use.

Property G - PIN# 9568298266

This parcel consists of 1.34 acres and is located adjacent to Oakland Cemetery.

Recommendation:

Use for possible cemetery expansion and cemetery operations.

Property H - PIN# 9568996749 and 9568996772

These two parcels consist of 0.33 acres and are located at 616 and 630 Ashe Street.

Recommendation:

The recommendation is to sell these two parcels. The Mayor and City Council recommended keeping these parcels for greenspace.

Property I - PIN# 9568667716

This parcel consists of 0.69 acres and is along Wash Creek near Toms Park. A stream bank restoration project was completed on this parcel and there is an existing sidewalk that meanders through the property.

Recommendation:

This parcel provides a pedestrian connector to Toms Park, Rotary Park and the Sammy Williams Senior Center. Improve by installing interpretive signage and benches.

Property J - PIN# 9578078262 and 9578174164

These two parcels consist of 12 acres and are located adjacent to the southern property line of Jackson Park.

Recommendation:

PIN # 9578078262 is entirely located within the floodway and PIN # 9578174164 is entirely located within the 100 year floodplain. These parcels provide greenspace and

flood storage. Future uses may include greenway expansion to the south and an off leash dog park.

Property K - PIN# 9568858793

This parcel consists of 14 acres and is located on South Grove Street.

Recommendation:

Follow the City Council approved conceptual plan to develop as the Southside Park.

Property L - PIN# 9568739217

This parcel consists of 12.77 acres and is located at the end of Market Street. The parcel is entirely within the floodway and is utilized for flood storage. Potential usage could include passive recreation by providing a walking trail or greenway.

Property M - PIN# 9568930515

This parcel consists of 1.21 acres and is located at 306 Lawn Lane.

Recommendation:

Create a neighborhood park by providing playground equipment and an off leash dog area.

Future Greenspace Guidelines

Greenspace is generally undeveloped land which is intended to provide relief from the built environment. Greenspace can include lands that have development limitations such as steep slopes, wetlands, bodies of water and wildlife habitat. Greenspace can also include vacant lots, park lands, agricultural lands, and land subject to periodic inundation from flooding.

Chapter 3 of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan titled Natural and Environmental Resources addresses the need to protect valuable open or green spaces. The vision statement of this chapter states that the “preservation of environmentally sensitive areas will protect citizens from natural hazards, improve water and habitat quality and contribute to an interconnected network of recreational open space.” The goals of Chapter 3 in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan are referenced in Chapter 5 of the Park and Greenspace Master Plan.

In 2010, the Land-of-Sky Regional Council completed the Linking Lands & Communities Project. This project is intended to identify, maintain and restore a network of healthy ecosystems on a regional scale through the development of natural resource assessment maps and supporting data that can be used on both a local level and a regional level to assess the ecological quality of a given area.

The natural resource assessments focus on three separate areas. They include agricultural, water quality and wildlife habitat and biodiversity. The agricultural assessment is based on the review of existing farm/forest operations, land cover, soil types, slope, protection status and proximity to protected lands. The water quality assessment identified sub-watersheds, existing land cover, streams used for water supply and the presence of trout and macro invertebrates within the streams. The wildlife habitat and biodiversity assessment identified the connectivity, distribution and health of ecosystems, sites of rare, threatened or endangered species, unique habitats such as wetlands, and, priority ecosystems as identified by the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan.

The mapping data for each assessment is ranked by color from a high to low value. Those lands with a high value provide the greatest ecological benefit in a given category. Limitations on the data provided for each assessment should be noted.

1. For wildlife habitat and biodiversity, information is limited to public lands as little data exists for private lands. Therefore, private lands with high levels of wildlife habitat and biodiversity may receive a lower value due to a lack of specific scientific information.
2. The assessments considered existing land use as shown on the 1998-2001 National Land Cover dataset. The assessments do not take into account land development that has occurred since 2001.

3. Using aerial information, the assigned values tend to generalize the land cover and therefore do not necessarily reflect exactly what may exist at the ground level. Therefore, some areas identified as forest lands may also be partially developed.

Even given the limitations of this study, this initial assessment of the regional green infrastructure will help Hendersonville identify significant lands that have the potential to provide the greatest ecological and societal value for the three categories mentioned above. This information, in addition to information relating to significant natural resources, USGS rated streams and floodways can be beneficial in understanding local and regional impacts when considering acquiring lands for stormwater management, conservation, parks and greenspace.

Following are maps showing natural resources, streams, floodplains, water quality, agriculture/forestry, and wildlife habitat. Customized maps focusing on specific areas within the City of Hendersonville, the Hendersonville Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, and the region are available in the Planning Department.

Figure 20

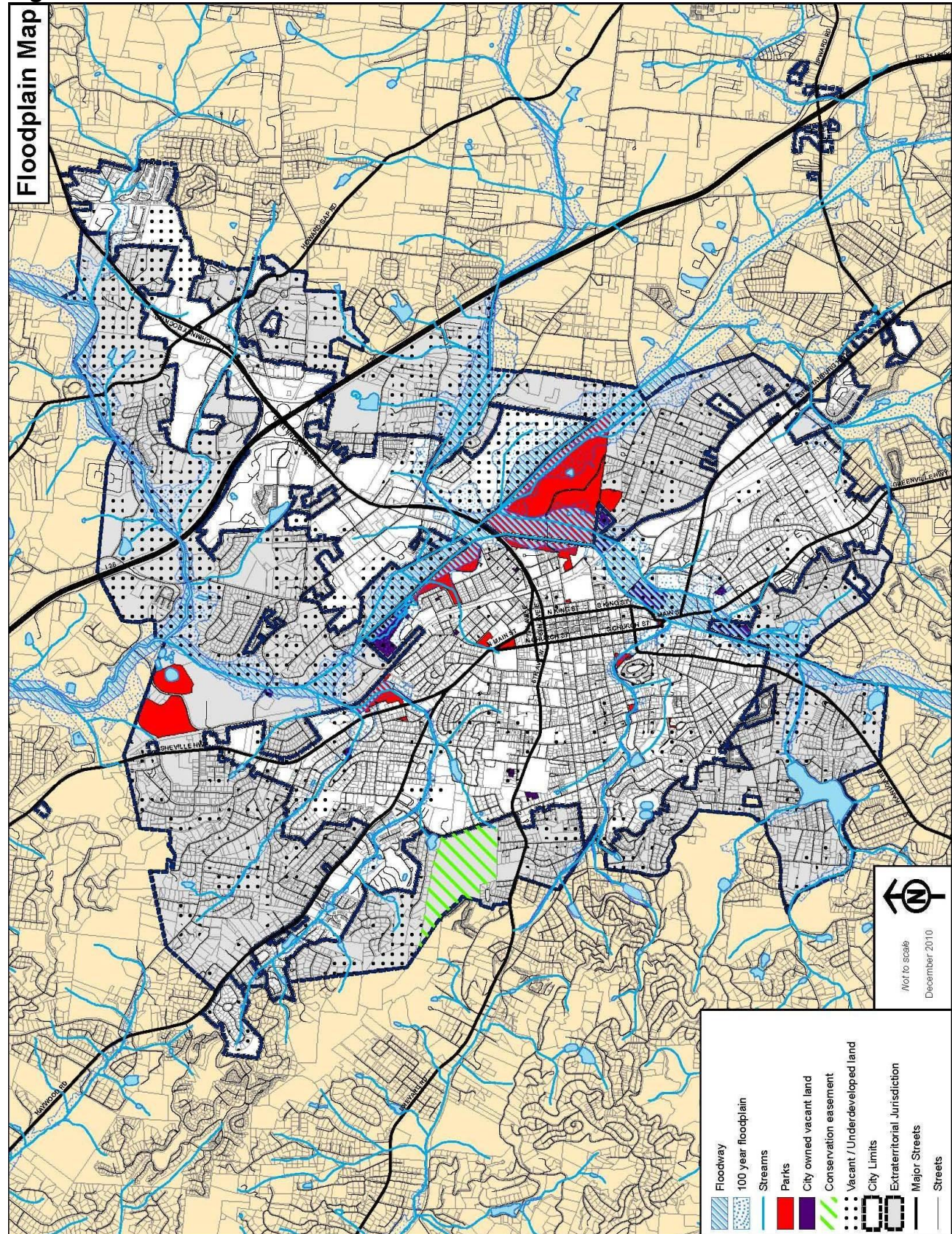


Figure 21

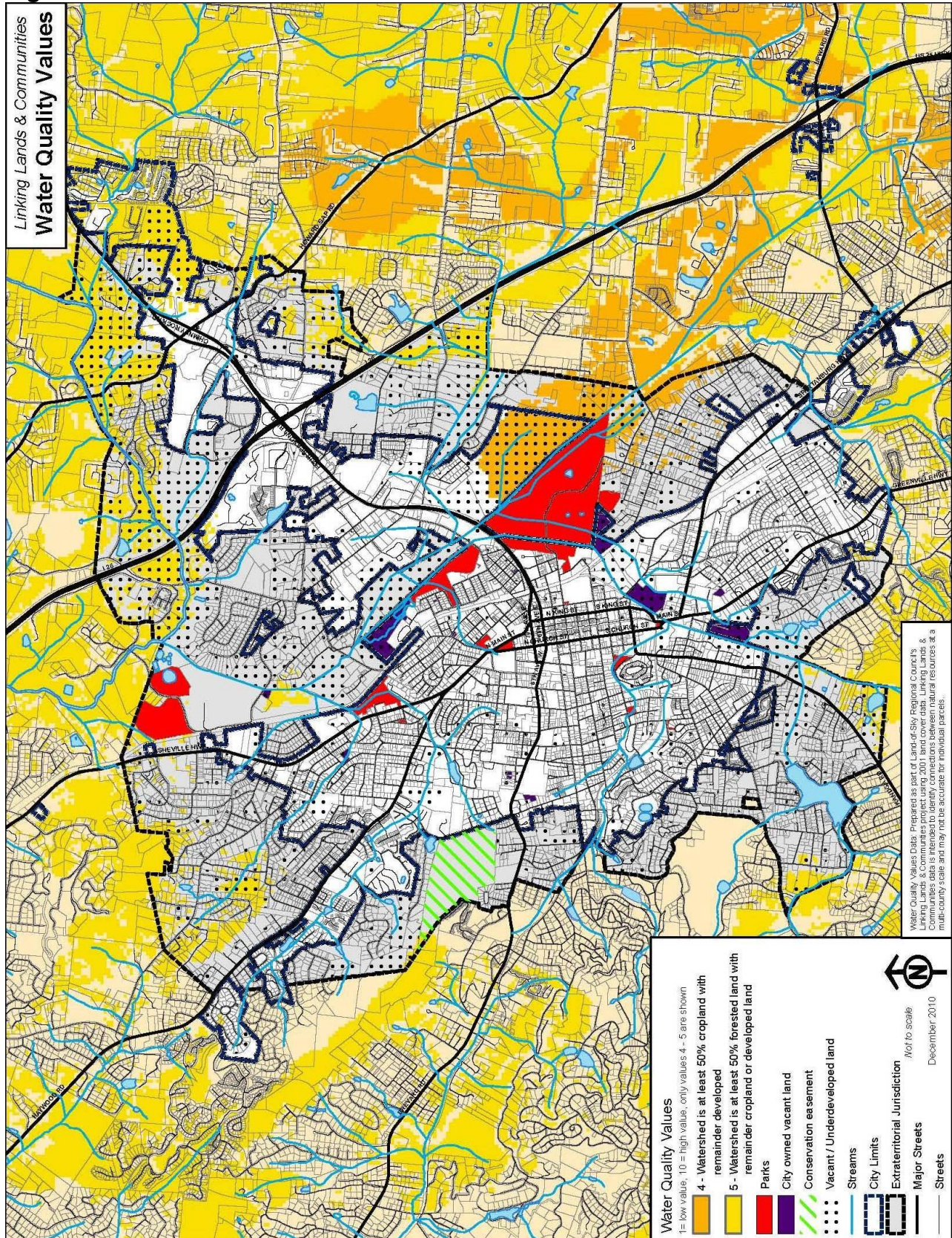


Figure 22

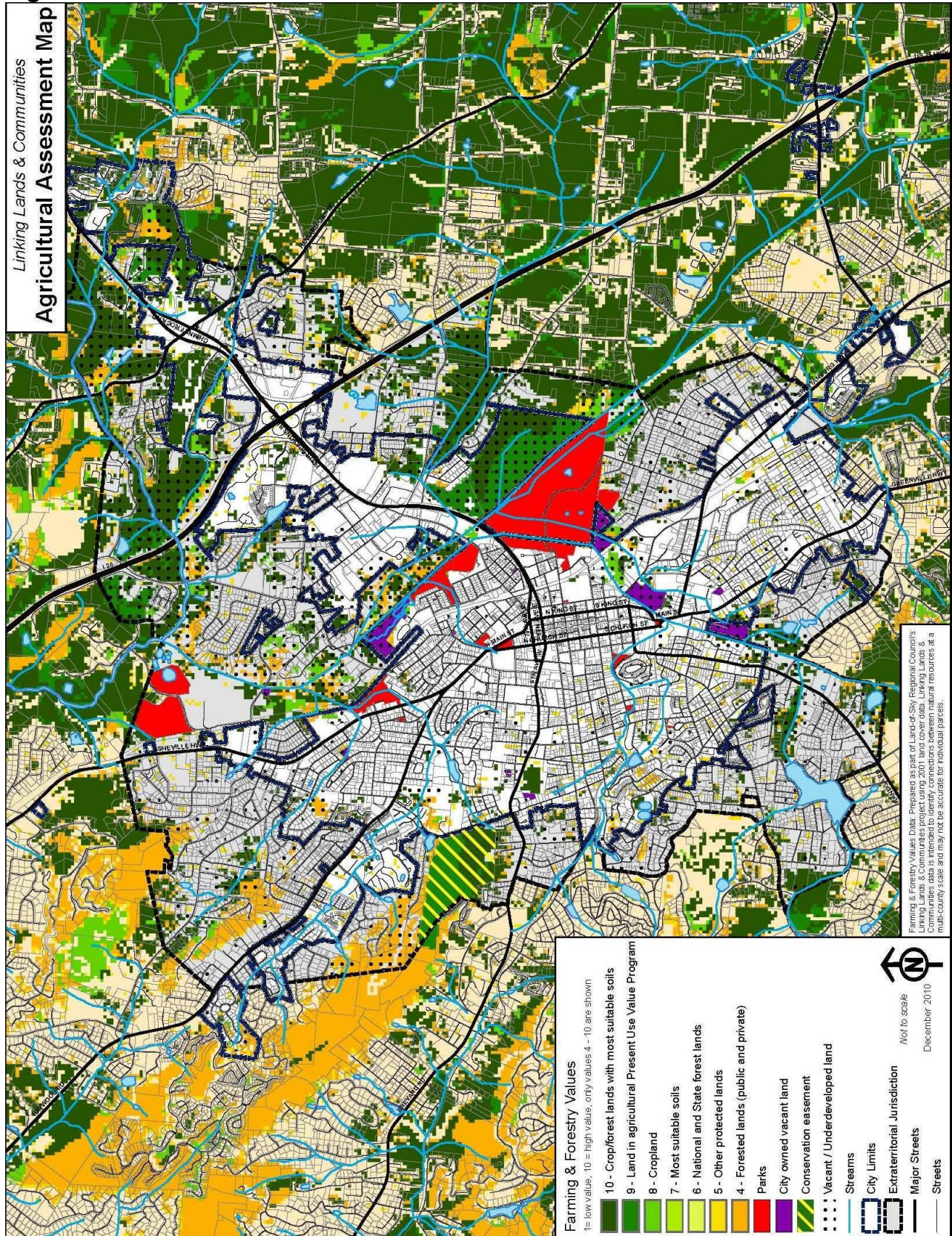
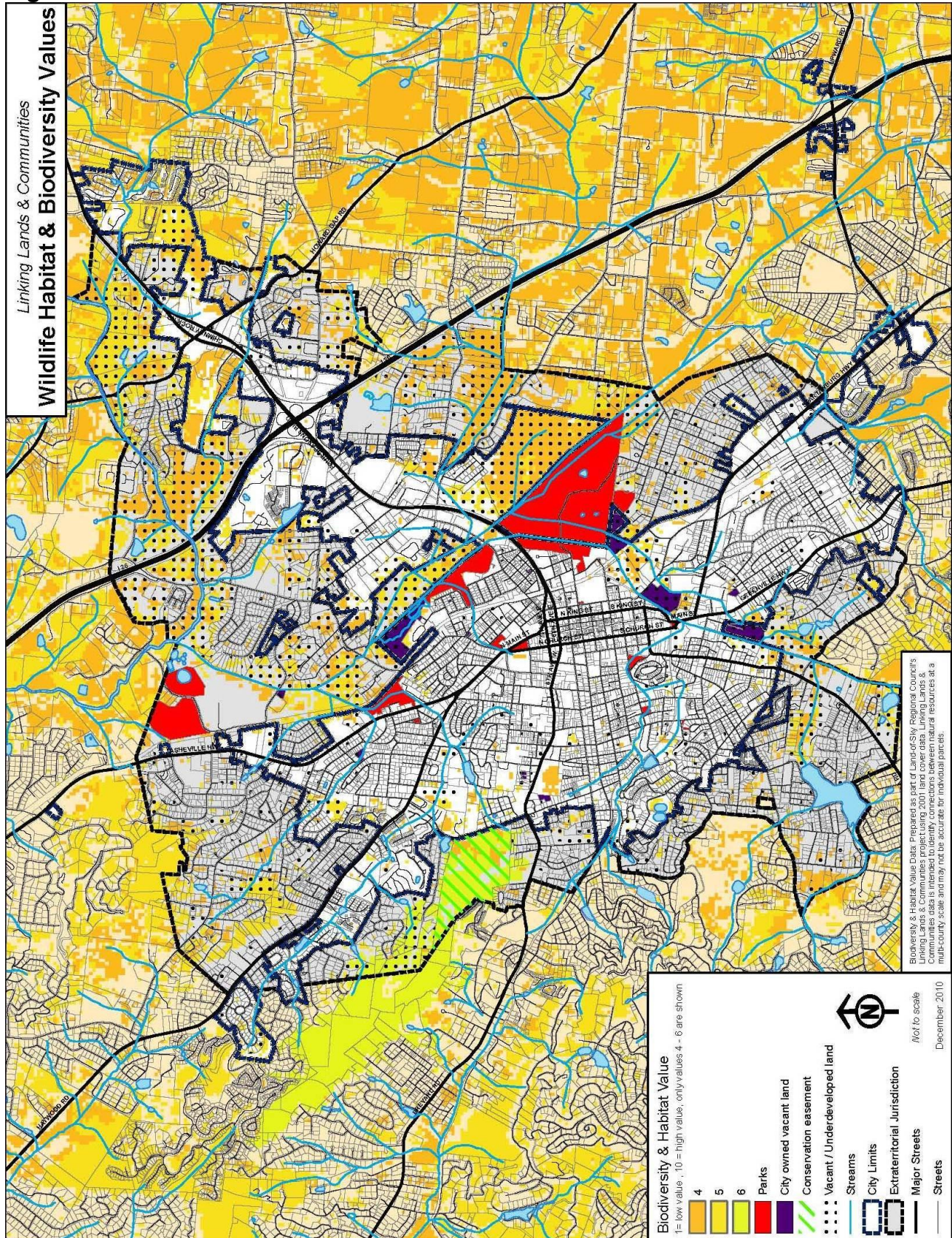


Figure 23



RAILS TO TRAILS

Rails to trails is a term used to describe the conversion of no longer utilized railroad lines and railroad right-of-ways to trails. This conversion can be accomplished through the direct purchase of railroad property or right-of-way or through a process called railbanking. In 1983, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed a statute amending Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act to allow for what is called railbanking. Instead of completely abandoning a rail line that is no longer needed for rail transportation, railbanking preserves rail corridors for possible future use by allowing a railroad to remove all of its equipment from a rail corridor and turning that corridor over to a private or public entity that has agreed to maintain that corridor for future rail use. Upheld by the US Supreme Court in 1990, a railroad has the legal right to transfer all forms of ownership, including easements, to a private trail group or public agency, provided the right to re-establish rail service is preserved.

Rails to Trails Conservancy, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D. C., has identified over 19,000 miles of rails to trails throughout the United States. This organization has also identified more than 9,000 miles of possible future rails to trails.

Rails to trails can provide a component of active transportation, a term used to distinguish the difference between motorized transportation and physically active transportation such as walking and bicycling. By providing infrastructure, such as sidewalks, designated bicycle lanes, greenways and trails that encourages active transportation, a community can reduce the consumption of fossil fuels such as gasoline, reduce climate pollution, reduce obesity rates and provide additional transportation options for all members of the community. Active transportation also helps to achieve the goal of providing complete streets. Complete streets are road networks that take into account all potential users such as pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, wheelchair users and public transportation vehicles in addition to traditional users such as passenger cars and trucks.

The City of Hendersonville is in a unique position in relation to rails to trails. Norfolk Southern Railway has a line that travels from Hendersonville 18 miles west to Pisgah Forest and Brevard. This rail line, known as the Ecusta Line, is no longer active. Originally built by the Hendersonville and Brevard Railway, Telegraph and Telephone Company in 1895, the Ecusta Line later provided freight service to the Ecusta paper mill which opened in 1939 in Pisgah Forest. The Ecusta paper mill was once the largest producer in the world of cigarette paper made from flax. The mill also produced high quality opaque printing papers used for financial documents, Bibles, and dictionaries. The mill closed in 2002 and the buildings on the 500+ acre site have recently been demolished. A mixed use redevelopment proposal has been developed for the site.

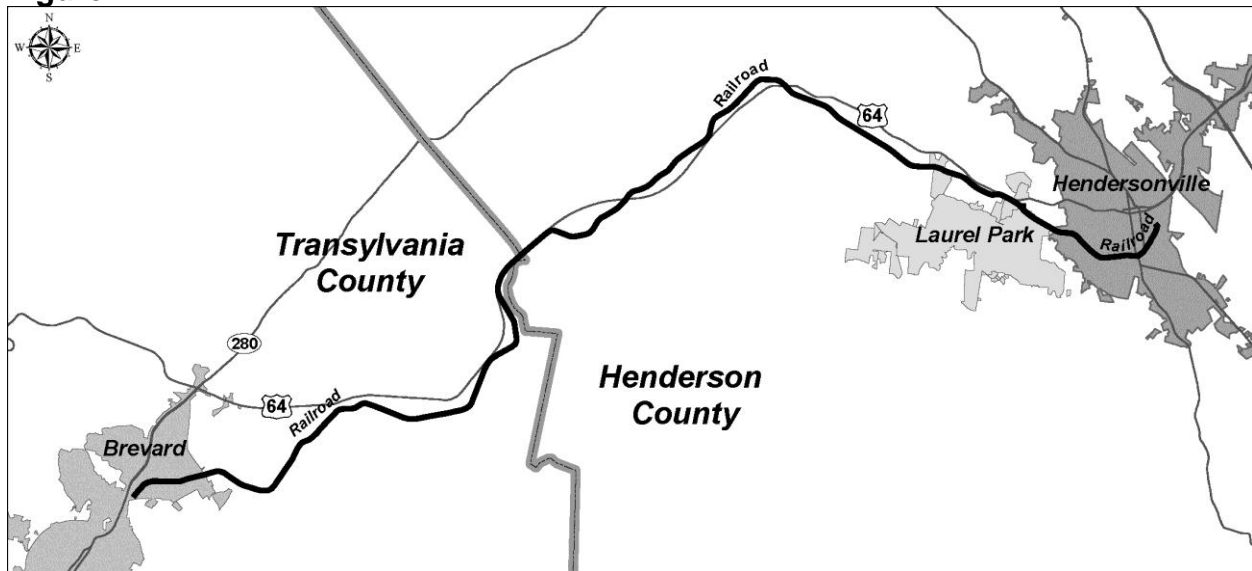
Prior to rail banking, Norfolk Southern Railway must express their intent to abandon the rail line. Although this line is no longer in use, Norfolk Southern Railway has not stated that they intend to abandon this line.

The City of Hendersonville has a contract with Alta Greenways to complete a planning study of the Ecusta Line. Eighty percent of the funding for this project will be provided by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Unified Planning Work Program. The planning study will include an existing conditions evaluation, inventory and assessment of railroad rights-of-way, site plan, conceptual engineering design, cost estimates for implementation and a financial study to determine the feasibility of converting the rail line to a trail. The feasibility study will include construction costs, trail operation, maintenance and security, analysis of potential demand and use and economic impacts. The City of Hendersonville anticipates the planning study to be completed by Alta Greenways by 2012.

As a separate but related project, Alta Greenways will be completing an economic impact analysis. This analysis will determine the potential impact of the trail on the local and regional economy. Funding partners for the economic impact analysis include Friends of the Ecusta Trail, Henderson County Travel and Tourism, the City of Brevard and the Town of Laurel Park. The City of Hendersonville anticipates the economic impact analysis to be completed by 2012.

Figure 20 shows a map of the existing Norfolk Southern Ecusta Line.

Figure 24



Chapter 7

Maintenance & Management

The City of Hendersonville does not have a written maintenance and management plan for existing parks. Responsibility for the maintenance of the City parks is under the Public Works Department. Basic maintenance is completed on a regular basis, inspections are done periodically and needs addressed on an as needed basis dependent on resources available. Recreational programming is through Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department.

Current Maintenance

The following table lists the mowing and sanitation schedule for each of the City's parks.

| Park Name | Acres | Lawn Care (Seasonal) | Type of Equipment* | Sanitation (Summer) | Sanitation (Winter) |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Berkeley Mills Park | 60 | Every 2 Weeks | P, R, T | 3 x Week | Weekly |
| Boyd Park | 1.6 | Weekly | P, R, T | Weekly | N/A |
| Bryan Park | 0.5 | Monthly | P, R, T | N/A | N/A |
| Gateway Park | 0.4 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Keith Park | 0.5 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | N/A | N/A |
| King Memorial Park | 10 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | N/A | N/A |
| Dr. MLK Jr. Park | 0.25 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | Weekly | Weekly |
| Lenox Park | 0.44 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | N/A | N/A |
| Patton Park ¹ | 18 | Weekly | P, R, T | 3 x Week | Weekly |
| Rotary Park ¹ | 1 | Every 2 Weeks | P, R, T | Weekly | Weekly |
| Southside Park ¹ | 14 | Monthly | R | N/A | N/A |
| Sullivan Park | 18 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | Weekly | Weekly |
| Toms Park | 2.5 | Every 2 Weeks | R, T | Weekly | Weekly |

- * P = Push Mower
- R = Riding Mower
- T = Trimmer

¹ Playground equipment at Patton Park, Rotary Park and Sullivan Park are inspected on a monthly basis.

Patton Pool (Seasonal)

1. Water quality is monitored throughout the day and chemicals adjusted accordingly. Off season water quality is monitored and chemicals adjusted accordingly to eliminate algae growth.
2. Restrooms are cleaned and trash emptied on a daily basis during seasonal operation.

Park Evaluation

As part of this plan, a full evaluation of park amenities was completed. The following tables include a list of amenities, date installed, date inspected, repair recommendations and repair schedule.

Berkeley Mills Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Baseball Field | | 04/05/11 | Repaint bleachers | Annually |
| | | | Replace lights | Future CIP Item |
| | | | Fence | As Needed |
| Concession Stand | | 04/05/11 | Repaint concession stand | Annually |
| Picnic Pavilion (1,680 sq. ft.) | | 04/05/11 | Repaint picnic tables | Annually |
| Picnic Pavilion (744 sq. ft.) | | 04/05/11 | Repaint picnic tables | Annually |
| Non-ADA Accessible Restrooms | | 04/05/11 | Rebuild | Future CIP Item |
| ADA Accessible Restrooms | 2010 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Walking/Nature Trails | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| On Site Parking | | 04/05/11 | Resurface or remove asphalt and install gravel | Future CIP Item |
| Flag Pole | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Other amenities | | 04/05/11 | Repair shuffleboard court | As Needed |
| | | | Repair horseshoe pit | As Needed |

Boyd Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Miniature Golf Course | | 04/06/11 | Sign | As Needed |
| | 4/2011 | 04/06/11 | Resurface miniature golf course | As Needed |
| | 4/2011 | | Repaint miniature golf characters | As Needed |
| Tennis Courts (2) | 2009 | 04/06/11 | Resurface courts | As Needed |
| | | | Fence | As Needed |
| Other amenities | | 04/06/11 | Replace light fixtures to improve energy efficiency | Future CIP Item |

William H. King Memorial Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Baseball Field | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| | 1983/84 | | Fence | |
| | 1983/84 | | Dugouts/Press Box | |
| | | | Flag Pole | |
| Mud Creek | 1988 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Walking Trail | 1982 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Sign | 1988 | 04/05/11 | | As Needed |
| On-Site Parking | | 04/05/11 | None | |

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Benches | 2005 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Engraved Granite Memorial | 2005 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Picnic Tables | 2005 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Sign | 2005 | 04/05/11 | | As Needed |
| Walking Path | 2005 | 04/05/11 | None | |

Lennox Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Capped Lennox Spring | 1960's | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Picnic Table | 1980 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Outdoor Grill | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Sign | | 04/05/11 | | As Needed |

Oklawaha Greenway / Mud Creek Nature Trail

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Greenway | 2009 | 04/05/11 04/06/11 | Patch areas where asphalt was raised due to heavy storm water | Done/As Needed |
| Mud Creek Trail | 1988 | | | |
| Boardwalk | 1989 2003 | 04/05/11 | Repair Boardwalk | As Needed |
| Benches | 1989 | 04/05/11 04/06/11 | None | |
| Interpretive Signage | 1988 | 04/05/11 04/06/11 | None | |

Patton Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Basketball Courts (2) | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Baseball Field | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | Bleachers | |
| | | | Dugout/Press Box | |
| | | | Fence | |
| Brittain Creek | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Concession Stand (Seasonal) | 1971/72 | 04/05/11 | Repaint | As Needed |
| Gazebos (2) | 1998 | 04/05/11 | Repaint | As Needed |
| Interpretative Signage | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Multi-Use Fields (2) | | 04/05/11 | Repaint soccer goals and goalposts | As Needed |

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Pedestrian Bridges (3) | 2005 | 04/05/11 | Remove pedestrian bridge and vehicular bridge along trails and replace with 1 new bridge | CIP Item |
| Picnic Pavilion (1,091 sq. ft.) | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | Repaint picnic tables | As Needed |
| Picnic Pavilion (2,193 sq. ft.) | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Playground for Tots | 1983 2002 | 04/05/11 | Level Sand | As Needed |
| | | | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Racquetball Courts | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | Clean/ Repaint interior walls | As Needed |
| | | | Install new roof | CIP Item |
| Skate Park | 2007 | 04/05/11 | Repair cracks in concrete | As Needed |
| | | | Repair fence | As Needed |
| Swimming Pool | 1972 | 04/05/11 | Replace lifeguard stands | CIP Item |
| | | | Replace diving board platforms | CIP Item |
| | | | Upgrade Lights | CIP Item |
| | | | Repair fence | As Needed |
| Tennis Courts (2) | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| ADA Accessible Restrooms | 2009 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Walking Pathway | 1983/84 | 04/05/11 | Resurface asphalt walking path around multi-use fields | This FY |
| Trash | | 04/05/11 | Pick up trash | Daily |
| Sign | | 04/05/11 | | As Needed |
| On-Site Parking | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Lighting | 2005 | 04/05/11 | Replace fixtures to improve energy efficiency Repair leaning wood poles above baseball field and multi-use fields | CIP Item |

Rotary Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Benches/Seating | 2000 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Picnic Tables | 2000 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Picnic Pavilion | 2000 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Playground | 2000 | 04/05/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Walking Trail | 2000 | 04/05/11 | Re-grade trail | As Needed |
| Plant trees | 2000 | 04/05/11 | None | Annually - Arbor Day |
| Sign | 2001 | 04/05/11 | Improve visibility | Future Project |

J. H. Sullivan Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Covered Basketball Courts (Lighted) | 1984/85 | 04/06/11 | Replace metal roof | CIP Item |
| | | | Repaint structure | As Needed |
| Mud Creek | | 04/06/11 | None | |
| Oklawaha Greenway | | 04/06/11 | None | |
| Pedestrian Bridge | 2005 | 04/06/11 | None | |
| Playground – Large Play System | Mid 90's | 04/06/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Playground – Medium Play System | Mid 90's | 04/06/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Playground – Small Play System | Mid 90's | 04/06/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Playground – Swing Sets | Mid 90's | 04/06/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Playground – Obstacle Course | Mid 90's | 04/06/11 | Safety Check | Monthly |
| Playground – Other Amenities | | 04/06/11 | Add sand to sand box | As Needed |
| Picnic Pavilion | 1983/84 | 04/06/11 | Repaint | As Needed |

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Restrooms (Closed) | Closed 1990's | 04/06/11 | Remove restrooms (if authorized) | |
| Roller Skating Area | 83/84 | 04/06/11 | Repair minor cracks in concrete | As Needed |
| Trash | | 04/06/11 | Pick up trash | Daily |
| Tributary to Mud Creek | | 04/06/11 | Stabilize stream banks – search for Grant | In Process |

Toms Park

| Existing Amenities | Date Installed | Date Inspected | Repair Recommendations | Repair Schedule |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Whitmire Activity Center (9,100 sq. ft.) | 1982 | 04/05/11 | Lighting Upgrade | Done |
| | | | HVAC units need to be replaced | CIP Item |
| | | | Repaint Exterior | As Needed |
| | | | Repaint assembly room | As Needed |
| Shuffle Board Courts (27) | Redone 1982/83 | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Pedestrian Bridge | 1982 | 04/05/11 | Replace wooden surface | As Needed |
| Picnic Tables | 1982 | 04/05/11 | Replace concrete tables | Future CIP Item |
| On-Site Parking | 1982 | 04/05/11 | Repaint light poles | As Needed |
| Wash Creek | | 04/05/11 | None | |
| Sign | | 04/05/11 | | As Needed |
| Pedestrian trail | 1982 | 04/05/11 | Re-grade trail | As Needed |

Recommendation:

Develop a Maintenance and Management Plan (MMP) which creates a record that identifies and measures park assets. A MMP may consist of four parts.

1. Identify and measure assets.
2. Identify maintenance activities necessary to maintain assets
3. Determine the time it takes to maintain assets
4. Identify the frequency of maintenance

A MMP provides a tool to determine life-cycles of equipment, strategize new methods and maintenance programs and for a system for quality maintenance and service of existing and future facilities to meet maintenance goals and standards for levels of service. A MMP clearly identifies job functions, maintenance programs, time standards and frequencies for maintenance. A MMP will assist in determining resources necessary to provide personnel, equipment, materials, supplies and safety measures necessary to achieve and sustain park quality and safety. This information is important for elected officials to understand the budgetary needs of park facilities and prioritize spending. Additionally the MMP can be used to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of maintenance performed. The plan can be used to evaluate if more or less time is needed to perform maintenance or if the frequency of maintenance needs to be increased or decreased to reach a desired outcome.

Staff involvement is instrumental in developing a MMP. Staff can provide realistic goals and identify needs to establish a baseline of those tasks presently being performed and the frequencies that they are performed on weekly, monthly, and annual basis. Hours can be estimated for each task to establish monthly personnel requirements.

Maintenance elements should at a minimum include the following:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Turf Care: | Mowing, aeration, reseeding or sodding, weed control |
| Fertilizer: | Fertilization of turf, trees, shrubs or floral plantings |
| Irrigation: | Automated or manual watering of turf, trees, shrubs or floral plantings |
| Floral: | Watering, fertilizing, disease control, pruning, weeding, planting or removal |
| Planting: | ornamental or flowering plants |
| Litter Control: | Pick-up and disposal of trash, debris, trash service and cleaning |
| Pruning: | Growth control of trees, shrubs and floral plantings |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Disease and prevention: | Insect control, correction and management of disease and/or insects in turf, trees, shrubs, floral plantings or buildings either by chemical or cultural methods |
| Lighting: | Cleaning, lamp replacement and maintenance of security, field, accent, or walkway lights |
| Surfaces: | Sweeping, cleaning, washing and maintenance of walkways, floors and play surfaces |
| Repair Inspections: | Maintenance required by inspection or schedule to facilities or equipment |
| Safety Inspection: | Visual and physical examination of a park, facility or equipment to insure compliance, safety, and proper operation |
| Restrooms: | Cleaning, sweeping, washing and stocking of restrooms |
| Special Features: | Maintenance of equipment or facilities such as fountains, drinking fountains, sculptures, flag poles, goals, nets, screens, parking devices, tables, benches, play units, signs and any equipment or special facility within a park or building |
| Snow Removal: | Removal of snow and ice from roadways, parking areas and walkways |

The National Recreation and Park Association has information and resources on planning and organizing a Park Maintenance and Management Plan.

Appendix B includes a table that can be utilized to outline planned cycles of maintenance for Hendersonville's parks and a checklist for equipment inspections.

Chapter 8

Marketing Strategies

The City of Hendersonville does not have a systematic approach to promoting the City's parks. The City's web site includes a park link that can be accessed through the "Residents", "Visitors" and "Departments and Services" drop down menus. That link provides information and links to the following:

- ❖ Park Descriptions
- ❖ Park Map
- ❖ Berkeley Mills Ball Field Schedule
- ❖ Oklawaha Greenway Trail Map
- ❖ Pavilion Rentals
- ❖ Skate Park Information
- ❖ Southside Gateway Park
- ❖ Boyd Park Mini Golf
- ❖ Patton Pool

Results of the survey for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the Park and Greenspace Master Plan indicated that there is a lack of park facility knowledge among a large segment of park responders. Additionally, there are perceived misconceptions about park safety and security.

In order to establish greater outreach to the Hendersonville community, the City should consider the following:

1. Establish an interactive stand-alone park web page with a link from the City of Hendersonville home page. Specific listings on the page should include:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Park Brochures (Printable) | On Line Reservation/Booking |
| Park Descriptions and Amenities | Handicap Access/Amenities |
| Park Property Maps | Volunteer Opportunities |
| Photos | Questions and Comments |
| Directions | Special Events Calendar |
| Rules | What's New Announcements |
| Fees | |

2. Upgrade park signage to increase visibility and establish consistency.
3. Provide directional and wayfinding signage from major roadways.
4. Highlight park safety and increase security presence.
5. Implement park beautification measures.
6. Promote City of Hendersonville parks through the establishment of a single brochure that describes all park facilities. Consider direct mail options for City residents.

7. Establish kiosks and signage at individual parks that promote awareness of park amenities.
8. Provide individual park guides and brochures available at each park.
9. Develop a seasonal park newsletter.
10. Distribute park information to organizations such as sporting supply stores, schools, non-profits, social service organizations, churches and Henderson County Travel & Tourism.
11. Market park amenities to area business and corporations for employee gatherings and special events.
12. Highlight park upgrades and improvements both when under construction and upon completion.
13. Hold special park promotional events with attendance by elected officials and City Staff.
14. Promote and sponsor high visibility special events that utilize and highlight park amenities.

Chapter 9

Funding Opportunities

Listed below are examples of possible funding opportunities and contact information. This list is not intended to be all inclusive. Some funding opportunities listed may be prohibited by the State of North Carolina or require special State legislation.

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

Annual Programs and Special Events. These programs can help support parks through underwriting, in-kind gifts and financial support for popular and traditional events.

Bond Referendums for Parks. Communities across the nation have successfully placed on local ballots propositions to support park development. Voters must approve a bond. In November 2008, residents of Mecklenburg County voted in a \$250 million bond for the following categories: conservation and stewardship - \$16 million; Greenways – \$43.5 million; neighborhood parks - \$5.9 million; community parks - \$7.7 million; regional parks - \$37 million; recreation & aquatic facilities - \$70 million; athletics & operations - \$9.3 million and land acquisition - \$60 million.

Cash-in Lieu of Open Space Requirement. This would allow a developer to make a cash contribution to substitute an open space requirement that can be applied to an off-site park that serves the residents of the development and the public.

Dedication Sales Tax. A dedicated sales tax has been used by many cities as a funding tool for capital improvements. The City of Lawrence, KS passed a one-cent sales tax for parks that has generated over \$50 million in park improvements over the last seven years.

Friends of Parks. Such an organization can raise funds for a park, receive in-kind donations and donated time to keep parks and greenspaces enjoyable.

Improvement District. This allows for special assessments on property owners to support acquisition, development and/or maintenance costs for parks and greenspaces.

Local Businesses and Industries. Private businesses located in Hendersonville and Henderson County could be contacted to seek financial and volunteer support for local events and park improvements.

Park Sponsors. A sponsorship program for parks and park amenities allows for small donations to be received from individuals, non-profit groups and businesses. Hendersonville historically has named parks for land and money donations. Amenities such as picnic tables, benches, shelters, playgrounds and sports fields could carry the name of the donor.

Revolving Fund. This fund would be used for park and greenspace purposes being replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources.

Tax Allocation District (TAD). This involves tax-exempt bonds to pay for front-end infrastructure and eligible development costs in partnership with private developers. As redevelopment occurs in the district, the “tax increment” resulting from redevelopment projects is used to retire the debt issued to fund the eligible redevelopment costs. The public portion of the redevelopment project funds itself using the additional taxes generated by the project. TADs can be used to fund greenspace acquisition and development as an essential infrastructure cost.

REVENUE CAPTURE

Capital Improvement Fee. This fee is usually applied to sports complexes, aquatic & recreation centers, etc., to pay back the cost of the capital improvement or the revenue bond that was used to develop the facility.

Homeowner Association (HOA) Fees. HOA fees could be applied to maintain privately owned greenspace that is public through an agreement with the developer and the City.

Lease Back. A private sector entity buys land, develops the facility and leases the facility back to the municipality to pay off the capital costs over a 30 to 40 year period.

Leases/Concessions. Through leases and concessions, a municipality may provide land, space or a structure for private commercial operations. Such park and recreational activities may involve food concessions, sporting events, etc.

Maintenance Endowment Fund. A fund dedicated exclusively for park maintenance, funded by user fees.

User Fees. User fees allow the user of park and recreation facilities to offset the costs by the municipality.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING SOURCES

AmeriCorp’s National Civilian Community Corps. These grants are made directly by the Corporation to public or private nonprofit organizations. There are seven different grant opportunities to provide direct service to address unmet community needs. The organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/national.asp

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education The Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education supports environmental

education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.

www.epa.gov/Education/grants.html

Federal Transportation Enhancement. This program offers funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience. Projects must relate to surface transportation and can include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/TE/

The Golden Leaf Foundation. This foundation's purpose is to fund projects that promise to bring significant economic improvement to the tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and/or rural communities of North Carolina.

www.goldenleaf.org/seekers.html

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This program has had a role in establishing or bolstering a number of key national conservation policies: principle of resource reinvestment (renewable resources in the form of conservation and recreation lands are increased and enhanced), leadership role for states (a full partnership with national and local governments in planning, funding and providing nationwide recreation opportunities) and the concept of a permanent, national recreation estate (the LWCF Act requires that all property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance be maintained perpetually in public recreation use).

www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/grants.html

National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA). The Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails

North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This fund was formed with a mandate to develop a grant program to clean up impaired waters and to protect remaining pristine waters of North Carolina. Projects also support the economy by providing critical construction jobs as well as helping to improve and sustain tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. www.cwmtf.net/a/index.html#home.html

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. These grants allow municipalities to apply for funding projects which enhance and promote the urban forest. www.dfw.state.nc.us/urban/urbangrantprogram

North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program. This program issues grant monies from the NC General Fund for trail brochures, website info, promotional media, new trail construction, trail renovation, trail side facilities and land acquisition. Maximum award is \$5,000 and requires no local match. www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/docs/AAT_info.pdf

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. This trust fund provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the public. www.ncparks.gov/about/grants/trails_main.php

2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Requires each state Department of Transportation to set aside federal funds from eligible categories for the construction of bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities. www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/funding/

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This program helps people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty. www.nrcs.usda.gov/

The Water Resources Development Project Grant Program. This program is designed to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments throughout the State for general navigation, recreational navigation, water management, stream restoration, beach protection, land acquisition, facility development for water-based recreation and aquatic weed control. www.ncwater.org/Financial_Assistance/

NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement. This program intends to "restore, enhance, preserve and protect the functions associated with wetlands, streams and riparian areas, including but not limited to those necessary for the restoration, maintenance and protection of water quality and riparian habitats throughout North Carolina." www.nceep.net

FUNDING THROUGH PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

American Greenways Kodak Awards Program. This program provides small grants to land trusts, watershed organizations, local governments and others seeking to create or enhance greenways in communities throughout the U.S. www.conservationfund.org

Bikes Belong Grant Program. This program strives to put more people on bicycles by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. www.bikesbelong.org/grants/

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. Through the Healthy Active Communities program, this foundation seeks to lead North Carolinians, young and old, to healthier, more active lifestyles by encouraging physical activity and healthy eating on the individual, family and community levels. www.bcbsncfoundation.org/

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. This organization offers matching grants to provide and leverage funding for innovative projects across the region which preserve, protect, and promote the rich historical, cultural, and natural heritage of Western North Carolina while stimulating economic opportunity. Grants are available for the preservation, interpretation, development, and promotion of heritage resources in five thematic areas: Agricultural heritage, Cherokee heritage, Craft heritage, Music heritage and Natural heritage. www.blueridgeheritage.com/partners/grants

Community Foundation of Henderson County. The Community Foundation has grants under General, Rudnick and Fletcher Community Funds that may be appropriate for park and greenspace. www.cfhcforever.org

The Eat Smart, Move More Community Grants Program. This program supports local health departments in North Carolina in their efforts to develop community-based interventions that encourage, promote and facilitate physical activity and healthy eating. www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com

Fit Community Grants. Funding and technical assistance is provided to North Carolina communities that seek to improve health and wellness outcomes by implementing innovative strategies to increase routine physical activity and/or healthy eating among the local population www.fitcommunitync.com

Janirve Foundation. This foundation does not fund government agencies but could help with a non-profit partner. Interest areas of the foundation are youth, child care, social services, arts, education, health, environment, community development, capital and building projects. 1 N Pack Sq. # 416, Asheville, NC 28801-3409, 828-258-1877

KABOOM Playful Cities Designation KaBOOM! A national non-profit dedicated to saving play for America's children whose mission is to create great playspaces through the participation and leadership of communities. Playful City USA communities gain access to media campaigns, highway signage and grant opportunities. www.kaboom.org/playfulcityuse

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Grants are awarded to organizations not affiliated with governments or tax-supported agencies. Grants focus on multiple areas including the environment. www.zsr.org

SouthWood Corporation. This corporation sponsors the "Identifying Our Community" Grant Program to install new signage or upgrade existing signage to create a positive environment. The grant includes the design, fabrication and installation of the signage. www.southwoodcorp.com

The US Soccer Foundation. This foundation offers grants for project and program development as well as equipment purchases. www.ussoccerfoundation.org

VOLUNTEER / NON-PROFIT SOURCES

Adopt-a-Park/Trail. This program allows neighborhood groups or businesses to make a commitment to maintain a specific park or trail.

Community Service Workers. Individuals assigned by the court to repay their sentence through maintenance activities.

SORBA - The Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA). The largest nonprofit mountain biking organization in the Southeast promoting land access, trail preservation, and new trail development in order to enhance mountain bike touring, racing, fun, and fellowship for all mountain bicyclists. <http://www.sorba.org> The local chapter is Pisgah Area SORBA serving Asheville, Hendersonville and Brevard. <http://www.pisgahareatorba.org>

The Wal-Mart Foundation. Wal-Mart places emphasis on environmental sustainability and health & wellness along with other areas. Non-profits work with the local store manager to discuss the application process.

OTHER RESOURCES

Alliance for Biking and Walking www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/

Alliance for Community Trees actrees.org/site/index.php

America Bikes www.americabikes.org/

American Hiking Association National Trails www.americanhiking.org

American Planning Association www.planning.org/

American Society of Landscape Architects www.asla.org/

Audubon International www.auduboninternational.org/

City Park Alliance www.cityparksalliance.org/

Coalition for Recreational Trails www.funoutdoors.com/coalitions/crt

International Mountain Biking Association www.imba.com/

League of American Bicyclists www.bikeleague.org/

National Alliance for Healthy Communities www.nafhc.org/

National Alliance for Hispanic Health www.hispanichealth.org

National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity www.ncppa.org/

National Recreation and Park Association www.nrpa.org/

Outdoors America www.americaoutdoors.org/

Outdoor Industry Association www.outdoorindustry.org/

Rails to Trails Conservancy www.railstotrails.org/index.html

Smart Growth America www.smartgrowthamerica.org/

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition www.urbanforestcoalition.com/

Trust for Public Lands www.tpl.org/

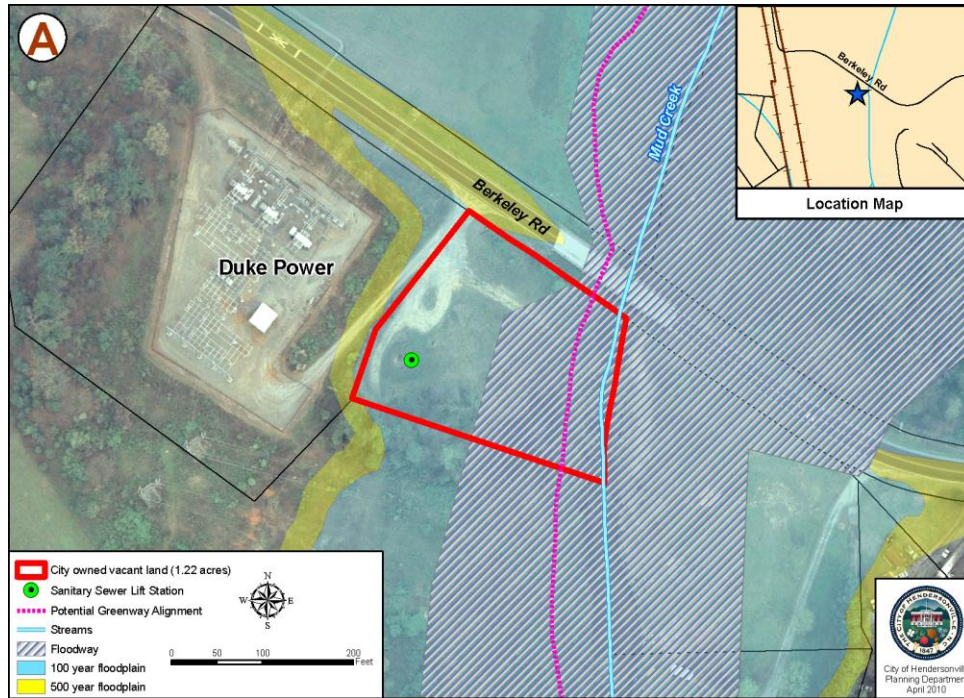
United States Tennis Association www.usta.com/

United States Conference of Mayors usmayors.org/

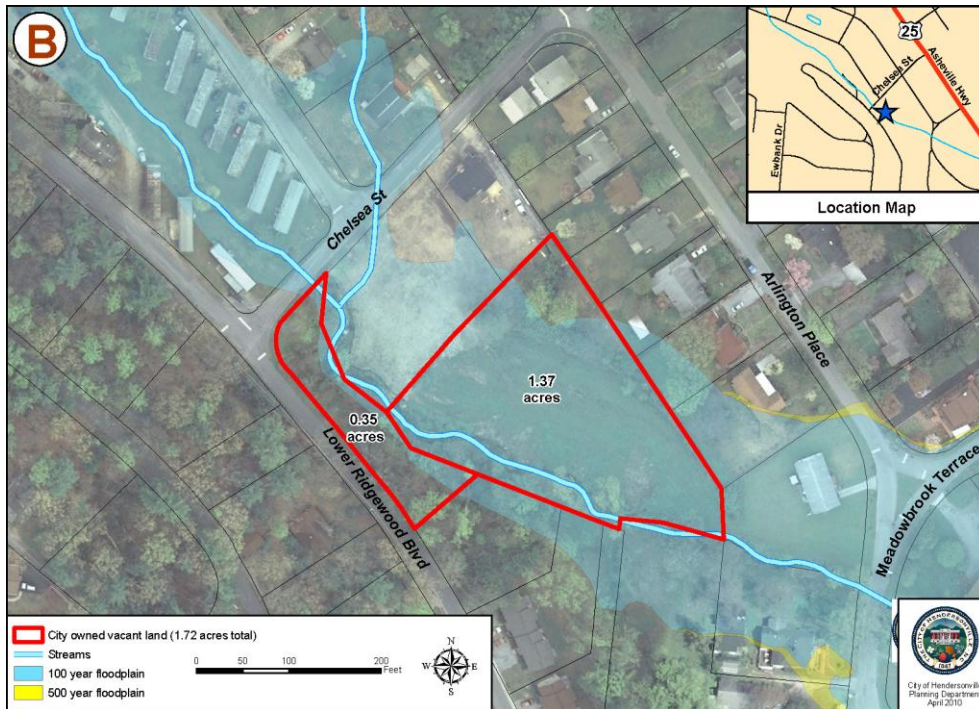
Up2Us www.up2us.org/

Appendix A

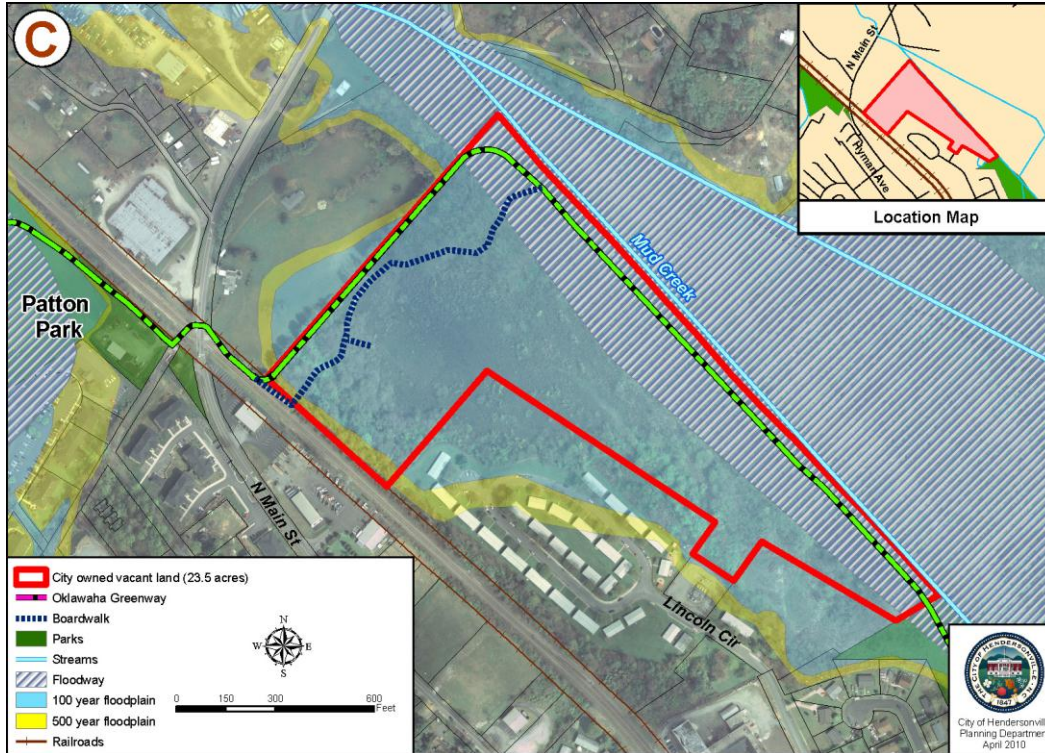
Property A



Property B



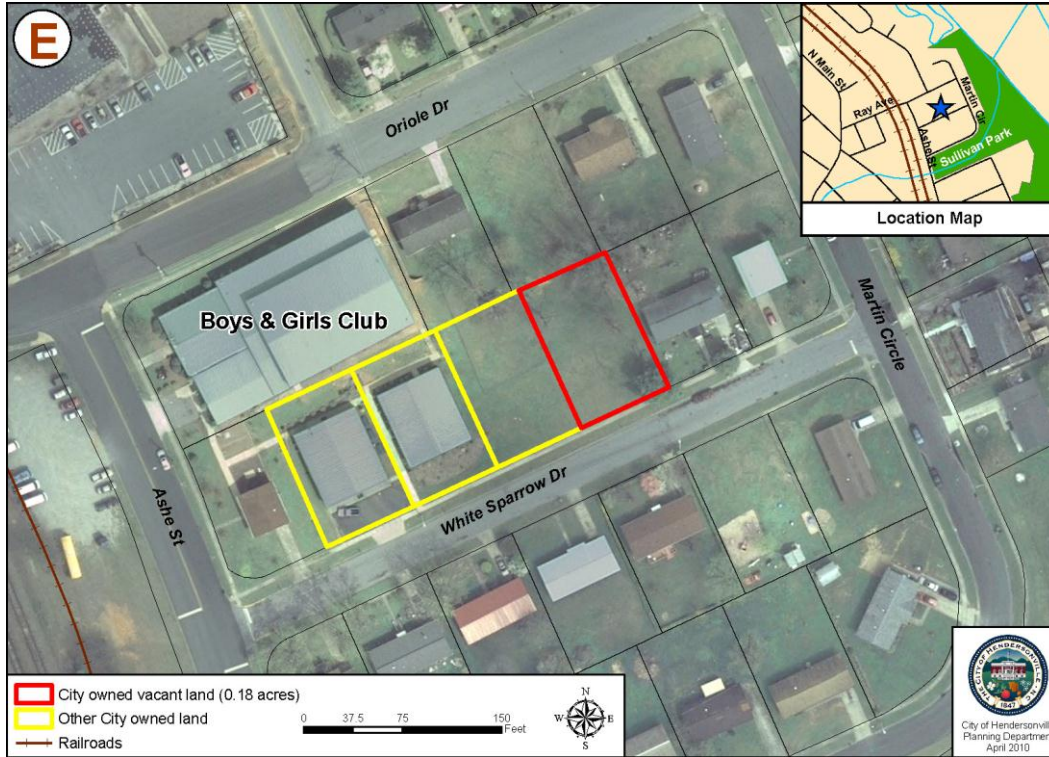
Property C



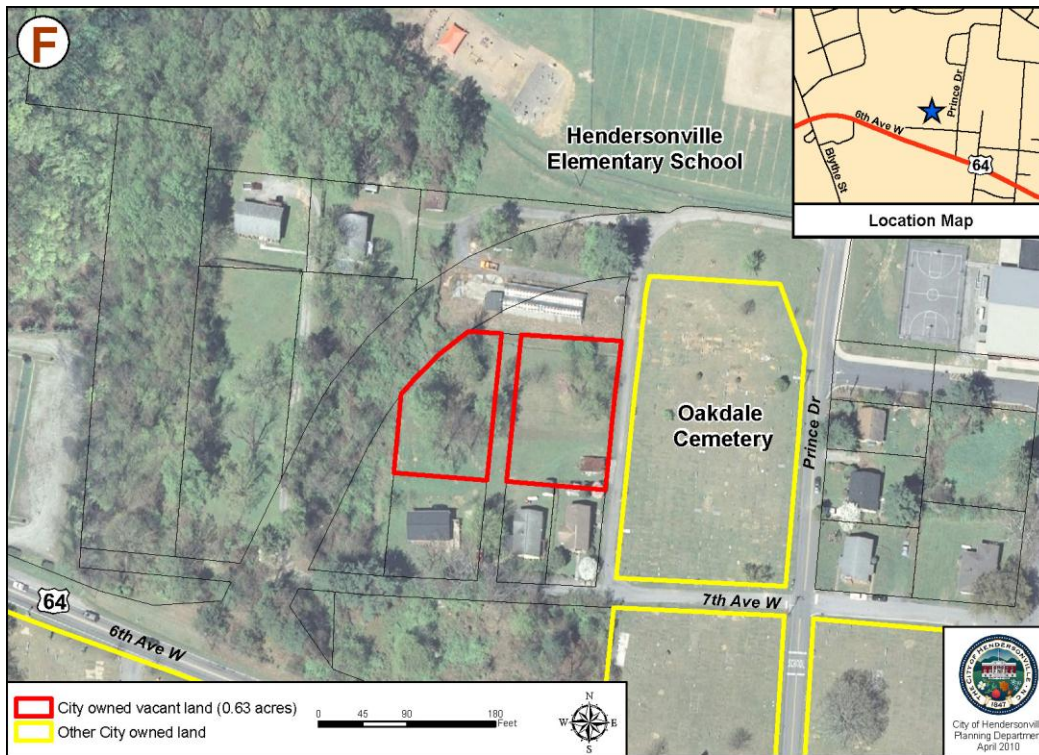
Property D



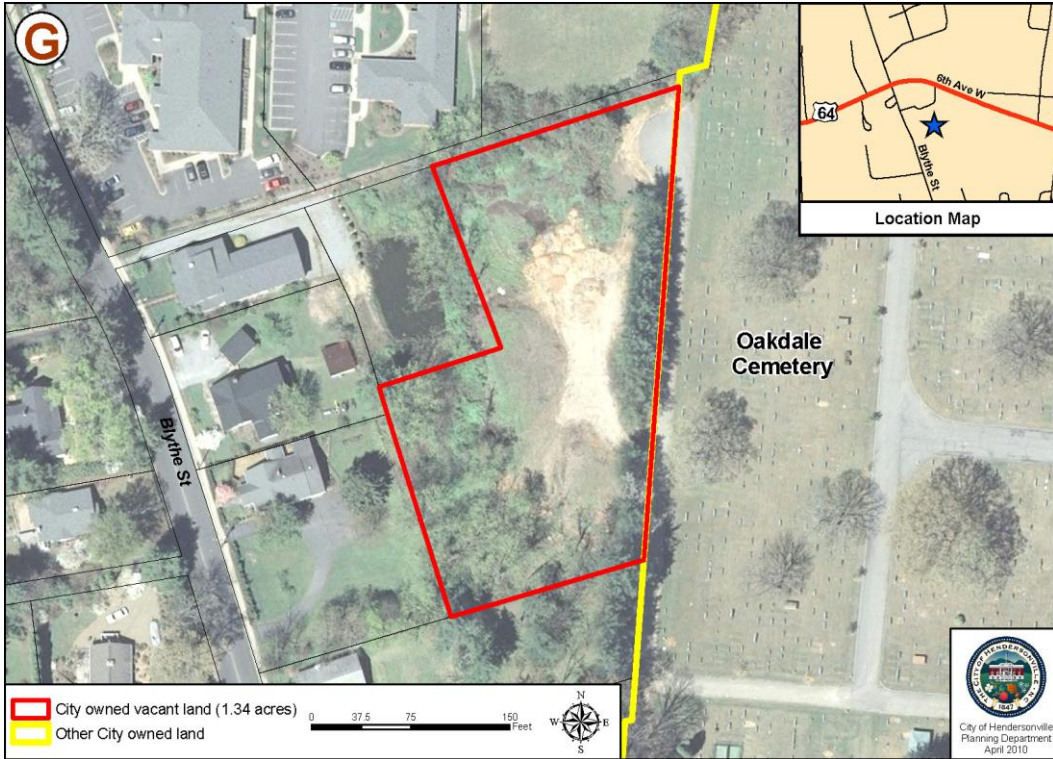
Property E



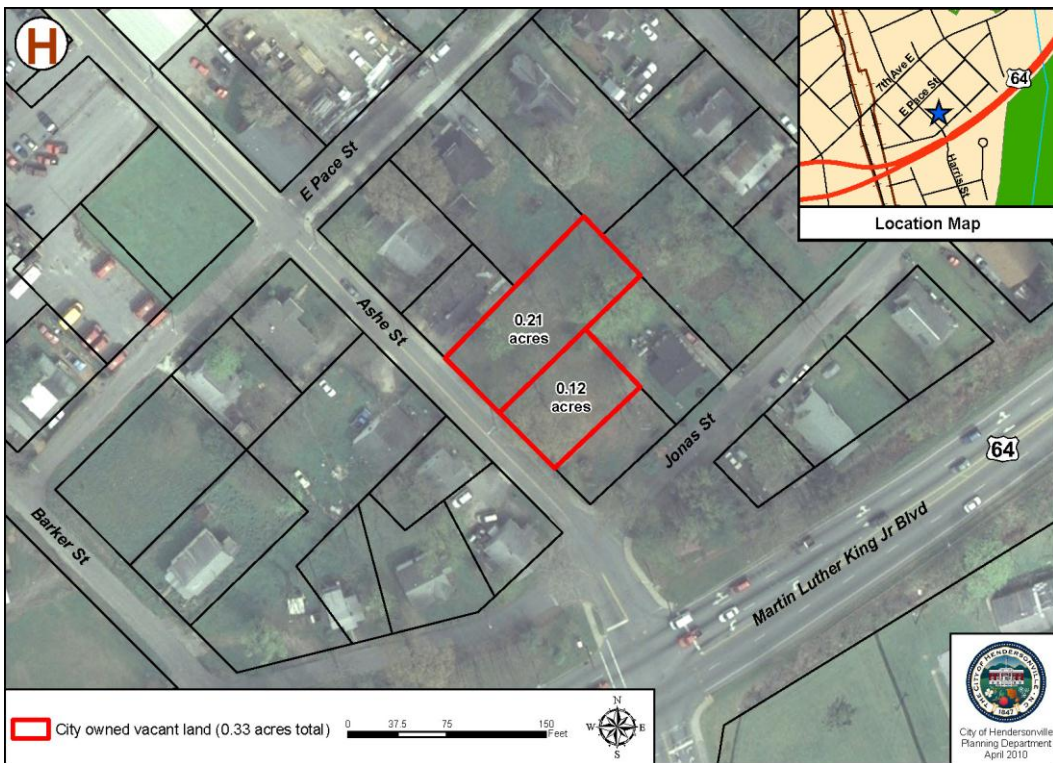
Property F



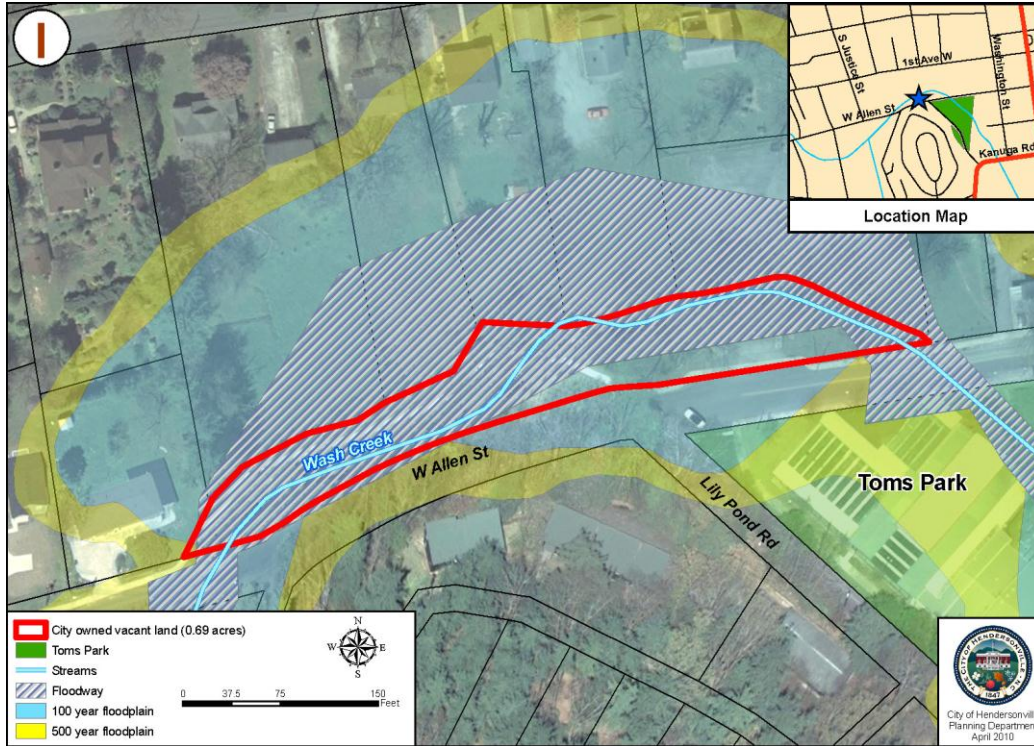
Property G



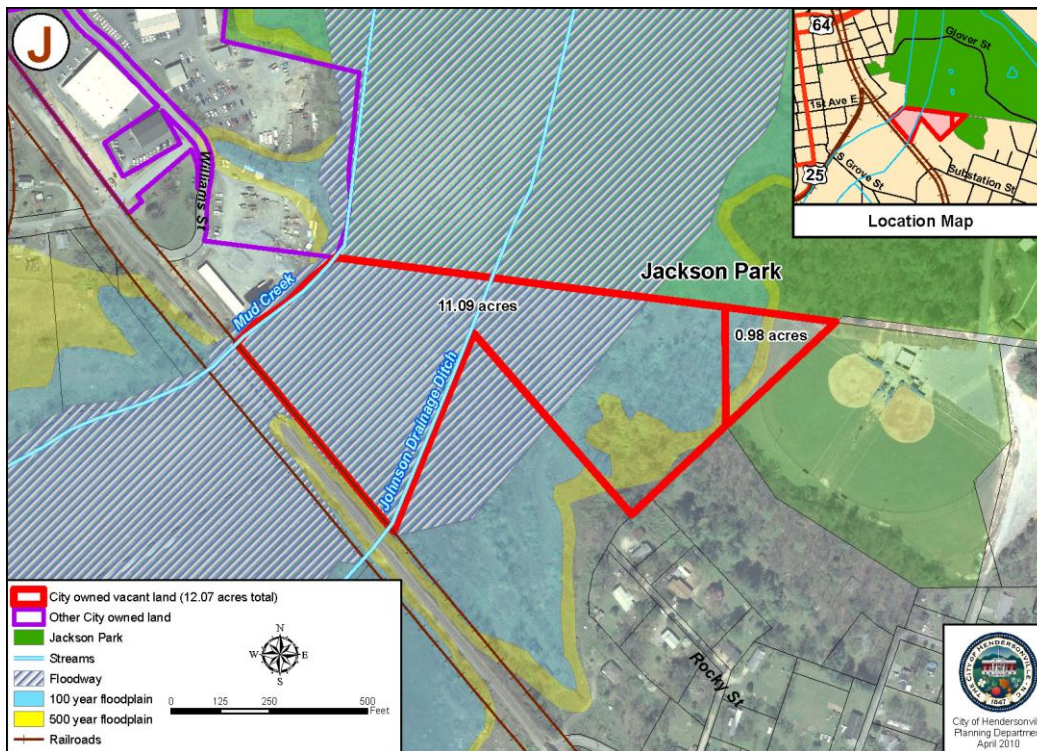
Property H



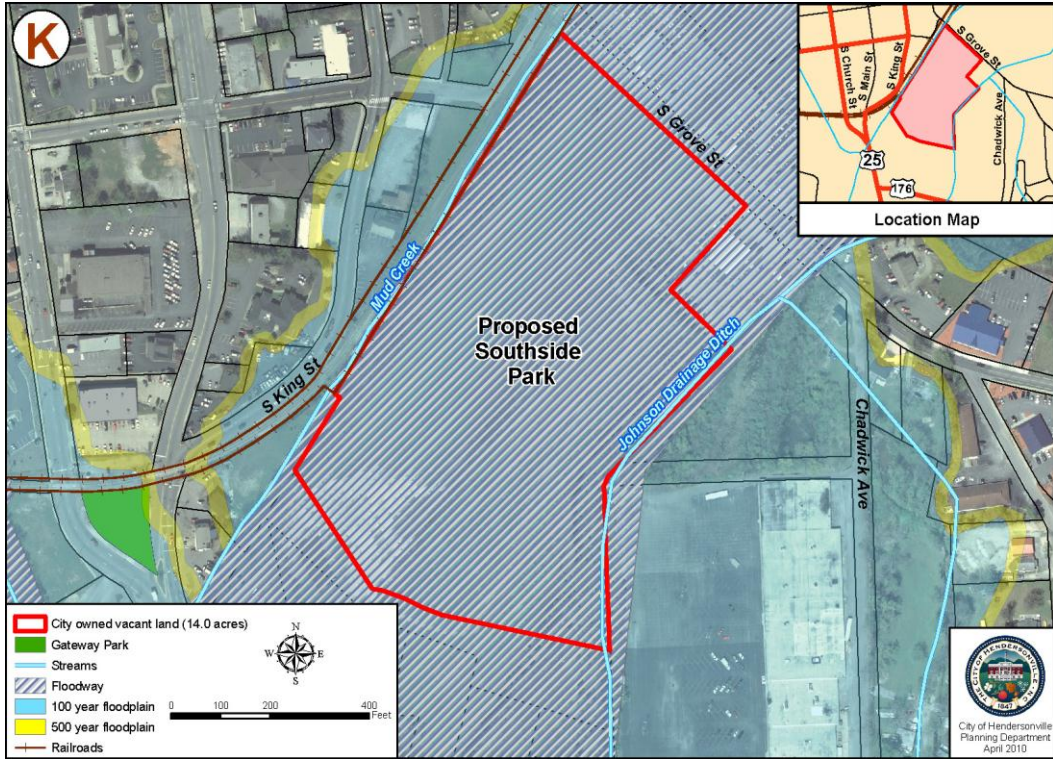
Property I



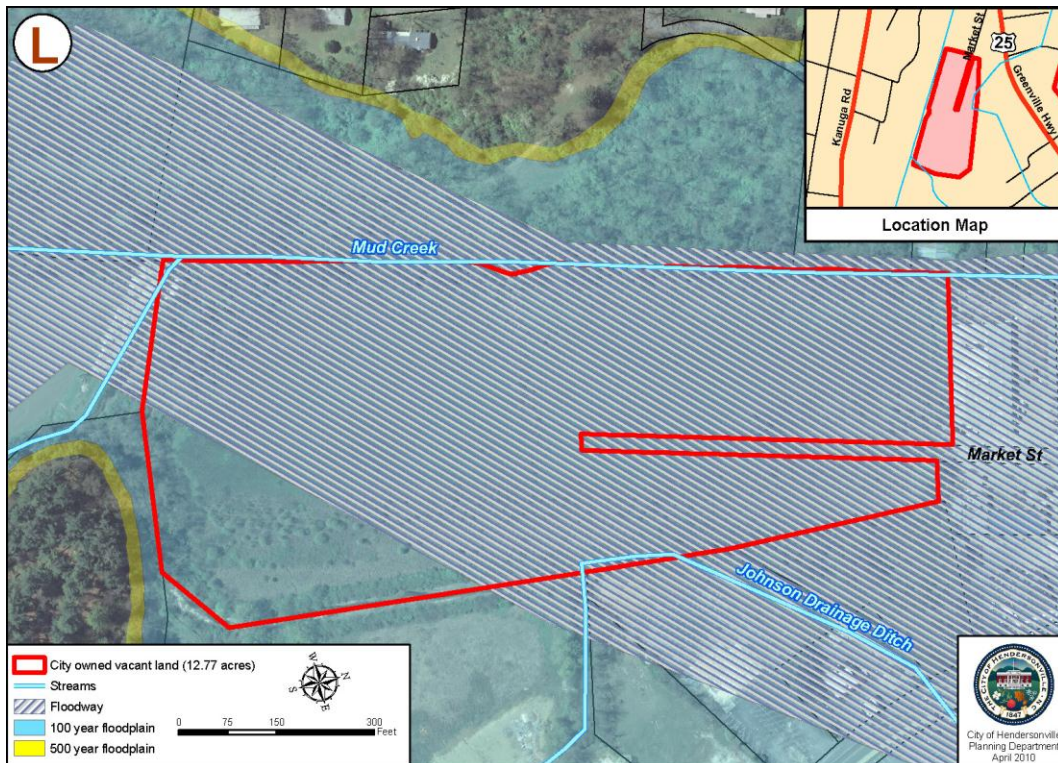
Property J



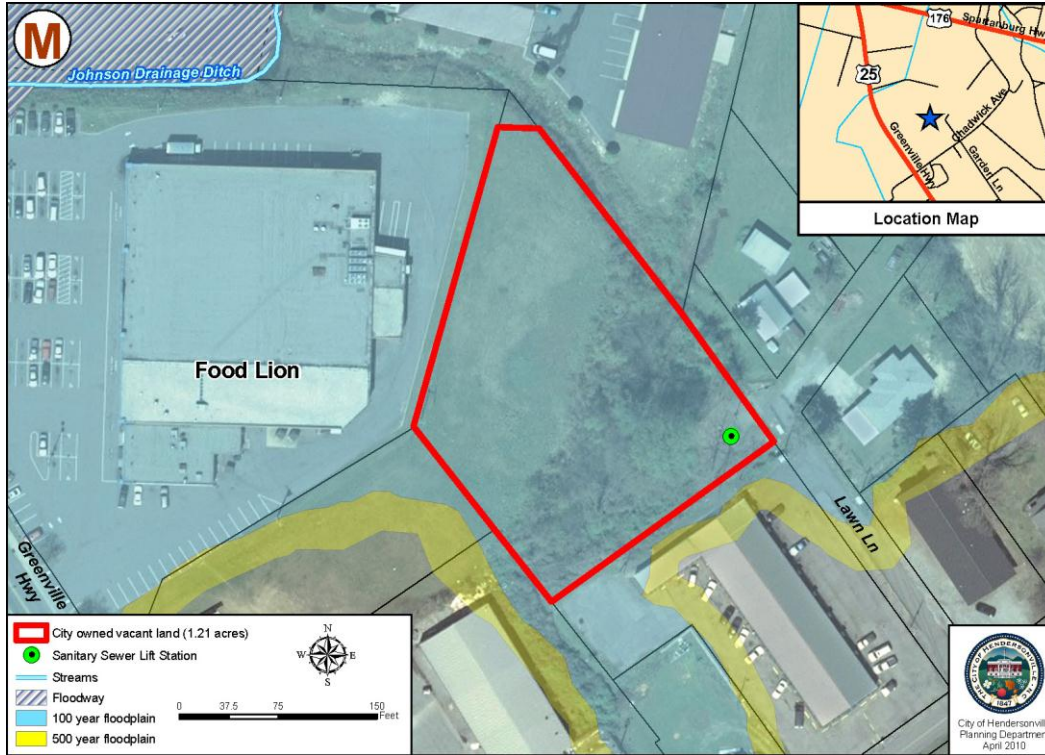
Property K



Property L



Property M



Appendix B

PARK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

KEY

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|----|-----------|
| D | Daily | M | Monthly |
| E – “X” | Every “X” Days | AN | As Needed |
| W | Weekly | A | Annually |

| Park Name | TURF CARE | FERTILIZER | IRRIGATION | PRUNING | DISEASE & INSECT | SANITATION (SEASON) | SANITATION (OFF-SEASON) | RESTROOMS | SURFACES | SAFETY INSPECTION | REPAIR INSPECTION |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Berkeley Mills | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boyd | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bryan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gateway | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keith | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William H. King Memorial | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lenox | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dr. M. L. King | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oklawaha Greenway | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Patton | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rotary | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southside | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J. H. Sullivan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Toms | | | | | | | | | | | |

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

LOCATION: _____

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT: _____

DATE: _____

INSPECTED BY: _____

SAFE / UNSAFE COMMENTS

| # | INSPECTION RESULTS | NO | YES |
|----|--|----|-----|
| 1 | Visible cracks, bending, warping, rusting or breakage of any component. | | |
| 2 | Open "S" hooks, deformed shackles, rings, links | | |
| 3 | Worn swing hangers and/or chains | | |
| 4 | Missing, damaged, or loose swing seats with sharp edges or corners exposed | | |
| 5 | Broken supports/anchors | | |
| 6 | Footings exposed, cracked, loose in ground | | |
| 7 | Accessible sharp edges or points | | |
| 8 | Exposed ends of tubing (should be covered by plugs or caps) | | |
| 9 | Protruding bolt ends that do not have smooth finished caps and covers | | |
| 10 | Loose bolts, nuts, etc. | | |
| 11 | Lack of lubrication on moving parts | | |
| 12 | Worn bearings | | |
| 13 | Broken or missing rails, steps, rings, seats | | |
| 14 | Surface material worn or scattered | | |

LOCATION: _____

| | INSPECTION RESULTS | NO | YES |
|-----------|---|-----------|------------|
| 15 | Surface material worn or scattered | | |
| 16 | Chipped or peeling paint | | |
| 17 | Vandalism (broken glass, trash, etc.) | | |
| 18 | Exposed mechanisms or moving parts | | |
| 19 | Exposed roots, rocks or other obstacles | | |
| 20 | Poor drainage areas | | |
| 21 | Landscaping | | |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | | | |

| REPAIR RECOMMENDATIONS | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

REPAIRS COMPLETED **DATE:** _____

Appendix C

CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE Park and Greenspace Master Plan Survey

Please complete, mail or drop off the survey by June 21st.

The City of Hendersonville is in the process of developing a Park and Greenspace Master Plan. The purpose of the plan will be to guide the City in the maintenance and management of existing parks, developing new park facilities and possible acquisition of green/open space. The purpose of this voluntary survey is to give citizens of this community an opportunity to voice their opinions on existing park facilities and types of future parks. The results of this survey will be incorporated into the Park and Greenspace Master Plan. Questions regarding this survey may be directed to the Planning Department at (828) 697-3088. This survey may also be completed online at www.cityofhendersonville.org.

Q1 Has anyone in your household visited any of Hendersonville's parks during the past year?

- Yes
- No

Q2 Are there a sufficient number and variety of park and recreation facilities located in Hendersonville?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q3 Are there sufficient parks and greenspace areas within walking distance of your residence?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q4 How do you rate the quality of recreation facilities located in Hendersonville?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- No Opinion

Q5 Is there sufficient parking at city parks? If answering no, please list the specific parks that need additional parking.

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q6 How often does someone in your household visit the Oklawaha Greenway which travels from Jackson Park to Patton Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q7 How often does someone in your household visit Patton Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q8 How often does someone in your household visit Sullivan Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q9 How often does someone in your household visit the Whitmire Activity Center (Toms Park)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q10 How often does someone in your household visit Boyd Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q11 How often does someone in your household visit King Memorial Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q12 How often does someone in your household visit Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q13 How often does someone in your household visit Rotary Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other _____
- Never

Q14 How often does someone in your household use the skate park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Never

Q15 How often does someone in your household use public school facilities for public recreation (non-school related)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Never

Q16 What type of park amenities would you like to see at Berkeley Park? Please list up to three.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q17 Please select the people that you most often use the park with:

- Family/Children
- Friends
- Varies on each visit
- Just myself
- Other _____

Q18 Please indicate all the reasons your household uses Hendersonville's parks and greenways.

- Enjoyment of the outdoors
- Close to home
- Facilities well maintained
- Improved physical fitness
- Facilities have the right amenities
- Safety of park and facilities
- Availability of parking
- Basketball Courts
- Bike/Walk Paths
- Family Gatherings
- Multipurpose/Sports Fields
- Picnicking
- Playground area
- Putt Putt Golf
- Shuffle Board
- Skateboard
- Swim/Pool
- Tennis
- Walk/jog/run
- Walking the dog
- Other _____

Q19 What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using park facilities.

- Concerns about safety
- Lack of time
- Lack of interest
- Lack of parking
- Lack of access for disabled
- Poor health/mobility
- Parks too far away
- Parks don't offer what I want
- Other _____

Q20 From the list below please select the top five additional recreation facilities or amenities you would like to see located in Hendersonville.

- Baseball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Benches
- Bike/Walk Paths
- Bocce Ball
- Climbing Wall
- Fitness Trails
- Football Fields
- Frisbee/Disc Golf
- Greenway Expansion
- Indoor Pool
- Lawn Bowling
- Multipurpose Fields
- Nature Trails
- Neighborhood Parks
- Off-leash Dog Park
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Rails to Trails
- Sand Volleyball
- Soccer Fields
- Splashpark
- Tennis Courts
- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

Q21 Would you support the conversion of the Norfolk Southern Ecusta rail line that travels from Hendersonville to Brevard to a multi-purpose trail?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q22 Are you in favor of expanding the Oklawaha Greenway?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q23 Are you in favor of the development of a downtown park/outdoor event space?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q24 Do you support the city acquiring additional land for parks?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q25 Do you support the city acquiring additional land for greenspace/openspace?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion

Q26 Would you like Hendersonville to invest more money in the parks?

- Yes
- Maybe
- Depends on the investment
- No
- Don't use parks

Q27 How would you like Hendersonville to pay for new amenities in the parks or new parks?
Check all that apply.

- Redirect funds from existing city services or programs
- Raising taxes
- Municipal bonds
- Bank financing
- Grants
- Donations

Q28 How would you vote on a bond referendum to fund the acquisition, improvement and development of the types of parks, trails, greenspace and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?

- Vote in favor
- Might vote in favor
- Might vote against
- Vote against
- Not sure

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q29 List below the total number of people in household.

Q30 List age of people in household. List actual number of people next to the age brackets below.

- _____ 0 to 4
- _____ 5 to 9
- _____ 10 to 14
- _____ 15 to 19
- _____ 20 to 29
- _____ 30 to 39
- _____ 40 to 49
- _____ 50 to 64
- _____ 65+

Q31 How long have you lived in the City of Hendersonville? Please check the box below.

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 5 Years
- 6 – 10 Years
- 11 – 15 Years
- 16 – 20 Years
- 20+ Years
- Do not live in the city

Q32 List the top three reasons you like living here.

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____