



Wooten Meadow Park

Proposed Master Plan Appendix

January 2015

APPENDIX A: SYSTEM INTEGRATION PLAN

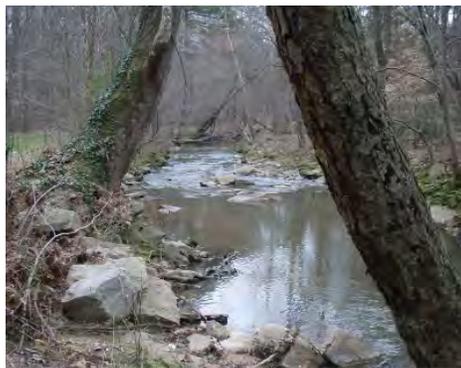


System Integration Plan

Wooten Meadow Park

Raleigh, North Carolina

August 11, 2014



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System Integration Plan

Wooten Meadow Park

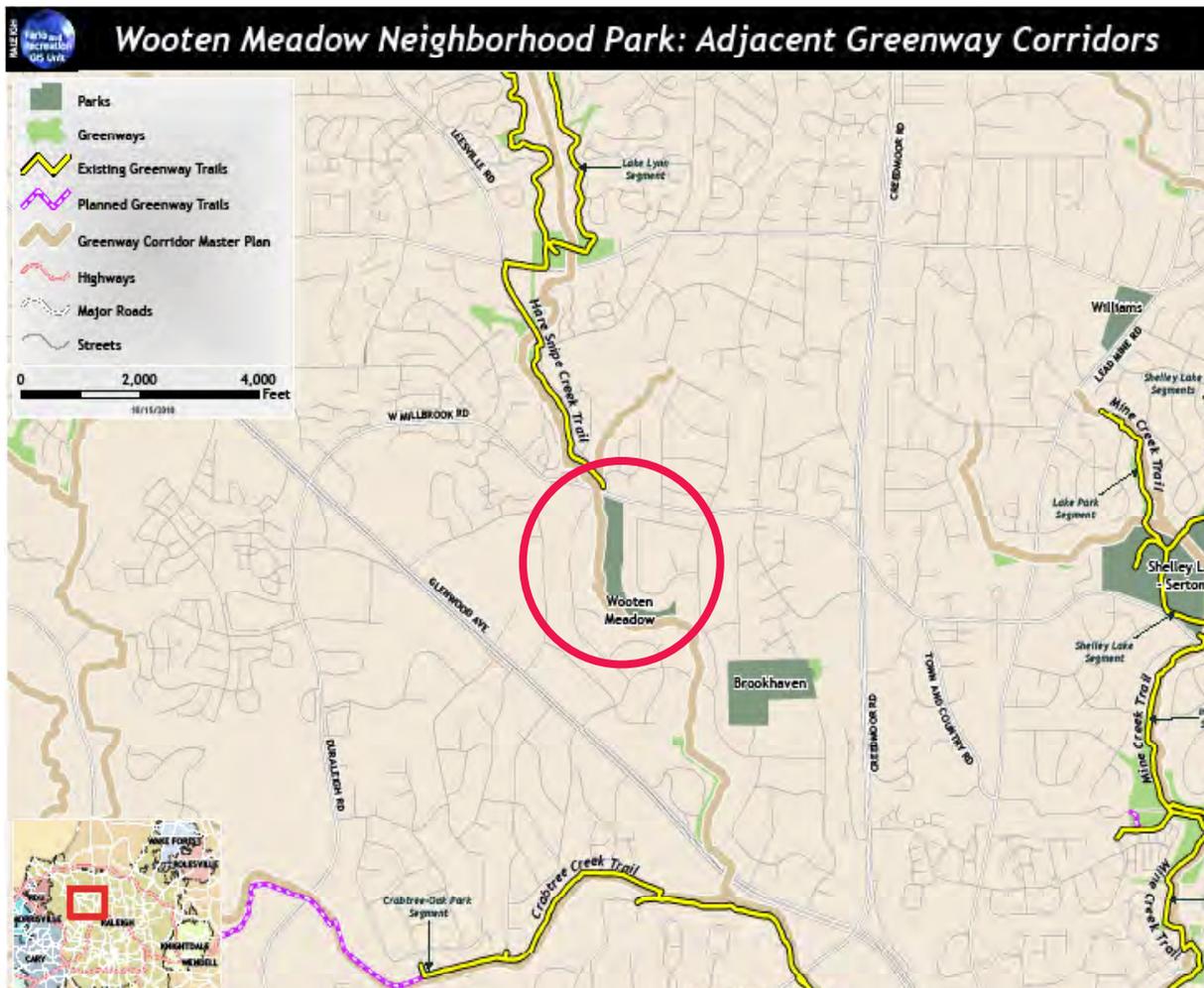
Executive Summary

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department has developed a System Integration Plan for Wooten Meadow Park in northwest Raleigh. The System Integration Plan is part of the Park Master Plan process and involves a public input component. The intent of the System Integration Plan (SIP) is to document existing site conditions and develop a set of recommendations for interim management of the park property. The site specific SIP incorporates input from both internal and external Subject Matter Experts, and is developed with input and oversight from the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board.

Wooten Meadow Park is located at 2801 W. Millbrook Road at the intersection of Leesville Road and W. Millbrook Road in Northwest Raleigh. Sidewalk and pedestrian crossing signals are in place at the road intersection. The 20.5 acre site was donated to the City of Raleigh in 1996 to be developed and used for the enjoyment of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway.

Brookhaven Neighborhood park is located one mile east of Wooten Meadow, providing walking trails and an opportunity to experience nature. Lake Lynn Park and Community Center is a 52 acre community park located less than three miles north. Lake Lynn includes lighted tennis courts, a lighted ball field, playground, bocce courts, walking trails, and a community center with gymnasium, dance studio, meeting room, and weight room.

There is a three mile greenway trail around Lake Lynn that continues south toward Wooten Meadow, called Hare Snipe Creek Trail. Crabtree Creek Trail is located south of Wooten Meadow. The Raleigh Greenway Corridor Master Plan suggests an eventual connection between these two trails.



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Wooten Meadow is located in the highly urbanized Hare Snipe Creek watershed of the Neuse River Basin. Hare Snipe Creek flows through Lake Lynn dam, which was constructed in 1976 for flood control. The Creek then continues flowing south along Wooten Meadow, eventually flowing into Crabtree Creek. Approximately 14.24 acres (70% of the total acreage) of the Wooten Meadow property are located in the floodplain of Hare Snipe Creek. The Creek is a dominant landscape feature of the park, impacting the site hydrology, topography, geology, soils, flora, and wildlife. Approximately 75% of Wooten Meadow is underlain by hydric soil, which is permanently or seasonally saturated by water. Standing water, saturated soils, scouring, debris accumulation, ephemeral channels, hummocks, and plants adapted to wet conditions are found throughout much of the property.

Sewer easements are located along both the west and east sides of Wooten Meadow. The western sewer easement along Hare Snipe Creek was installed in 1970 (see photo below). There are few trees established as a buffer between the sewer easement and the Creek. The Neuse River Riparian Buffer Rules require at least the first 30 feet adjacent to the Creek to be forested. Although the sewer easement is exempt from the rules, interim mangement recommendations for the site include partnering with City of Raleigh Public Utilities to manage easements.



Western sewer easement along Hare Snipe Creek. Creek bank is marked with a red line.

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Site amenities at Wooten Meadow currently include a park sign, a small parking area, and a multi-use open field on the north side of the park. The majority of the property has been maintained in a natural condition until a Master Plan can be developed for the park. Interim management of the mid field area of the park involves mowing sections of the field on a rotational basis, so that winter wildlife cover is available every year, and to provide interim pollinator habitat.



Signs of historic site use have been observed in the vicinity of the Wooten Meadow property and on privately owned properties in the vicinity. Structural historic remains observed thus far include a dry-stacked stone mill dam from approximately 1773 (see photo above). The City of Raleigh is working with the NC Department of Cultural Resources to follow regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act. Wooten Meadow has undergone an initial evaluation for potential park classification as a Nature Preserve or Protected Natural Area, using City of Raleigh Nature Preserves Criteria. Wooten Meadow does provide important stormwater benefits and contributes both riparian and aquatic habitat to a wildlife habitat corridor between Lake Lynn and Crabtree Creek. There are no known occurrences of protected plant or animal species on the property. At the time of this report, the extent of invasive species occurring throughout the park negatively impacts the quality of the natural area, and the site does not achieve the quality associated with a Nature Preserve or Protected Natural Area. The Wooten Meadow property is **recommended for classification as a Neighborhood Park**.

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System Integration Plan

Wooten Meadow Park

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Interim Management Recommendations	3
Nature Preserves Criteria	14
Cultural Resources and Historical Site Use	15
Site Description	35
Soils	49
Topographic Map	51
Water Resources	52
Flora Resources	69
Wildlife and Habitat	78

Appendices

- A** System Integration Plan and Park Master Plan Process
- B** Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Executive Summary
- C** City of Raleigh Nature Preserves Criteria
- D** Flora Resources
- E** Wildlife Resources

Comments and Records

Work Progression and Updates

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Introduction to Wooten Meadow Park

- Interim Management Recommendations
- Property Location
- Park Sites in Vicinity
- Greenways in Vicinity
- Neighborhood Park Classification
- Nature Preserve Criteria

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Interim Management of Wooten Meadow Park

Interim management of Wooten Meadow Park will be ongoing until future park development and the initiation of a park Master Plan.

Wooten Meadow is monitored on a regular basis by Parks staff. Site issues are addressed as needed. Parks staff patrols the park boundaries and continues to conduct site investigations for the purposes of natural resources inventory. Illegal dumping is monitored and cleaned up on a regular basis. Tree maintenance and other grounds maintenance is done as needed.

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department should organize an annual park site evaluation to review existing site conditions, review the status of recommended interim management activities, and determine whether interim management recommendations should be modified.

Interim Management Recommendations

The following interim management recommendations are proposed for Wooten Meadow Park. Management tasks should be completed on the site as resources and staff are available. The Department should prioritize the interim management recommendations and identify specific staff to complete the tasks. Work progression and updates will be recorded in the final section of this report.

Interim management recommendations are organized into three categories: *Safety, Environment, Property Issues*.

Safety

- Wooten Meadow Park has not yet been fully evaluated for safety, and could contain unknown conditions such as unstable trees, barbed wire, ditches, unstable footing, or other hazards
- Determine species of fire ant present on the site. If fire ants are determined to be invasive imported fire ant species, the City should develop a plan and initiate fire ant management on the site before the park is developed, in order to reduce the spread of fire ants during site disturbance.
- Review location of hazardous trees particularly along established trails or other areas where the public may congregate. Remove hazard trees as needed. Downed wood could be left on site for wildlife habitat. Standing dead trees that do not constitute a hazard should remain on site for wildlife habitat.
- Remove barbed wire from bank of Hare Snipe Creek and along eastern property boundary, after documenting barbed wire locations for historical records
- Remediate open ditch hazard in northern field near Hare Snipe Creek
- Evaluate Hare Snipe Creek bank stability and potential frequent flash flooding conditions during rain events. Consider increasing buffer on east side of creek (in the western sewer easement) to discourage public use of the creek bank in unstable areas and improve treatment of stormwater runoff. Install warning signs for flash flooding if appropriate.

Environment

- Remove guys and staking from trees planted in northern area of the developed portion of park
- Monitor beaver activity in the area and initiate appropriate management to protect park resources
- Work with City of Raleigh Public Works Stormwater Division and other partner agencies to stabilize the stream bank of Hare Snipe Creek
- Develop sewer easement management recommendations in cooperation with City of Raleigh Public Utilities. Recommendations may apply to Wooten Meadow as well as other easement locations. Management recommendations may include decreasing the width of easements after sewer line installation, increasing tree canopy coverage over the easements, increasing trees in the riparian buffer, managing fire ants and invasive plants, and seeding recommendations for newly constructed easements.
- Further investigate hydrology within the park and determine potential improvements to the hydrologic function of the site. Investigations could include flood modeling and gathering of data over time as part of site management.
- There may be small jurisdictional wetlands within the park. Consult with Subject Matter Experts to determine this potential occurrence.
- Consider allowing the area adjacent to Hare Snipe Creek to return to natural riparian/wetland conditions. A designated riparian zone within the southwest area of front field (adjacent to creek) could be delineated, boundary markers installed, and wetland vegetation will continue to re-occupy the area.
- Facilitate community education about floodplains and wetlands.
- Inventory and assess invasive vegetation and evaluate management options and priorities. Invasive non-native species could be managed when staff and support resources are available. English ivy could be removed from trees during volunteer stewardship work days, however the extent of English ivy at this site is challenging. Poison ivy and other potential hazards should be evaluated prior to volunteer events for safety of volunteers.
- Continue inventory and mapping of natural resources including flora and fauna. Consult with NC Natural Heritage Program and NC Wildlife Resources Commission on potential occurrence of rare plants and wildlife.
- Forest Management could include selective removal of lower quality trees to encourage an increase in desirable species such as Umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), Sweet Bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and American Beech (*Fagus grandiflora*).
- Additional Forest Management may be needed on the site to address storm damage, serious disease or insect infestations, or other forest health issues that arise. For example, there are some large ash trees on the site, and the exotic pest *emerald ash borer* is expected to move into Wake County in the next several years. Forest Management options should be determined by Parks Staff and partner agencies. Healthy downed dead wood should be maintained on the site for wildlife habitat.

Property Issues

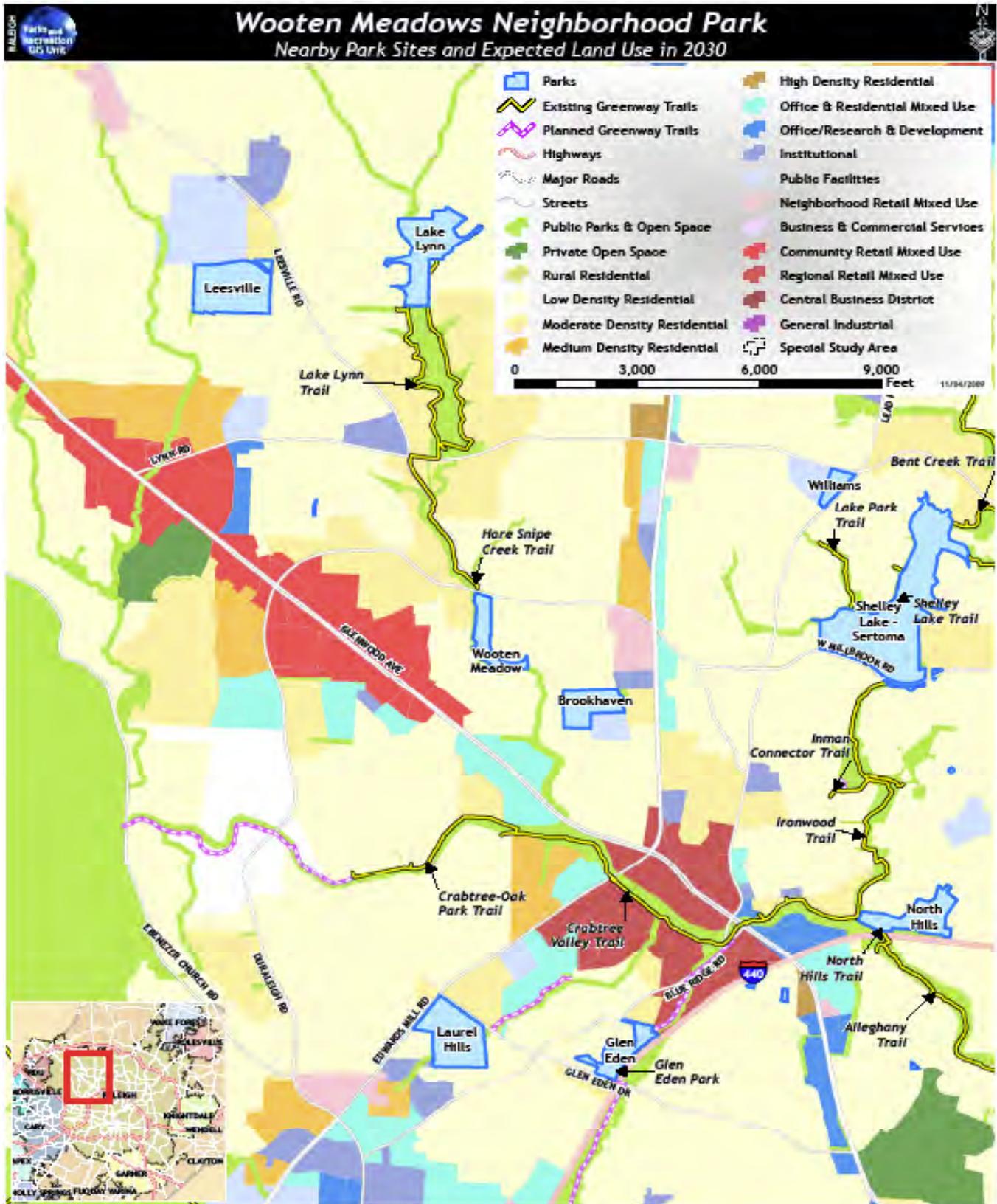
- Signage at the site should include a Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources phone number, and possibly website information, to report non-emergency site issues
- Wooten Meadow was donated to the City of Raleigh in 1996 to be developed and used for the enjoyment of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway. The property donator, Mr. Louis E. Wooten Jr., requested that the park and/or greenway be named for his father L.E.Wooten. When the park signage is updated, the park name should be re-evaluated. The current park sign is *Wooten Meadows Park*, whereas the City's GIS database refers to the property as *Wooten Meadow*.
- Maintain established residential vegetation buffer
- Establish communication with neighborhoods in the vicinity of the park. Acquire contacts for Homeowners Associations in the park area. Work cooperatively with adjacent property owners to control and manage invasives and other park impacts.
- Remediate encroachment from neighboring properties. Encroachment involves private use of public property, and includes placing personal property on park land, destroying park land to expand a yard area, clearing vegetation to alter a view, creating private trails into or through a park, and yard waste dumping.
- Geocaching is not allowed on park property unless approved by PRCR staff
- Protect and maintain cultural and historical remains on the site, in cooperation with adjacent property owners. Metal detecting and exploration for old relics or removal or damaging of historic artifacts is not allowed on park property and is detrimental to historic integrity.
- Initiate a comprehensive archaeological survey of the area, both historic period and Native American, and share results with the NC Department of Cultural Resources to meet regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Remove English ivy from historic dam remains, after an archeological survey and only if approved by the NC Department of Cultural Resources
- Maintaining an un-mowed condition in the northern field area provides wildlife habitat during interim park planning

Completed and Ongoing Interim Management responsibilities

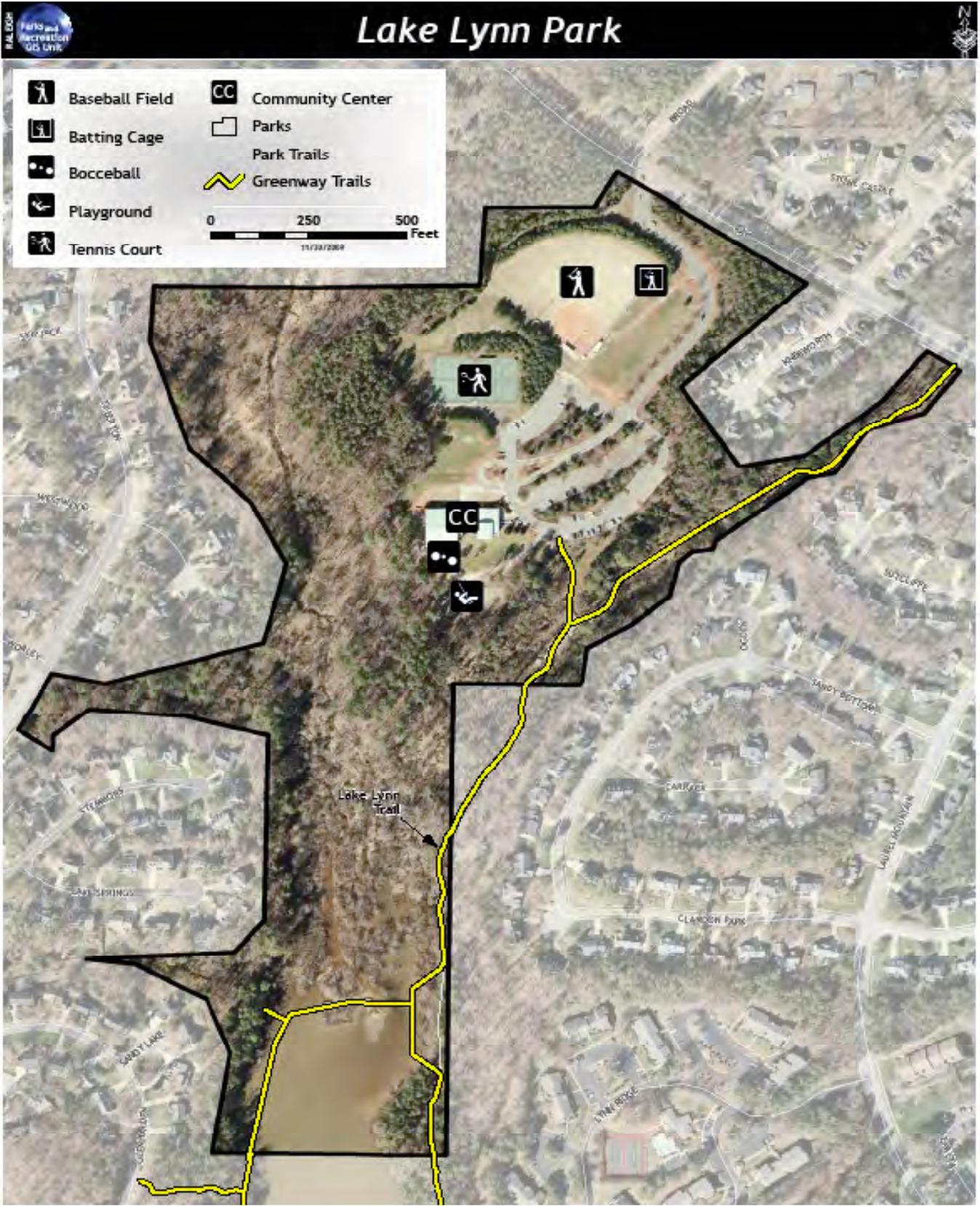
- Inventory of natural and cultural resources have been initiated
- Property boundaries markers have been installed around the perimeter of the site

Property Location

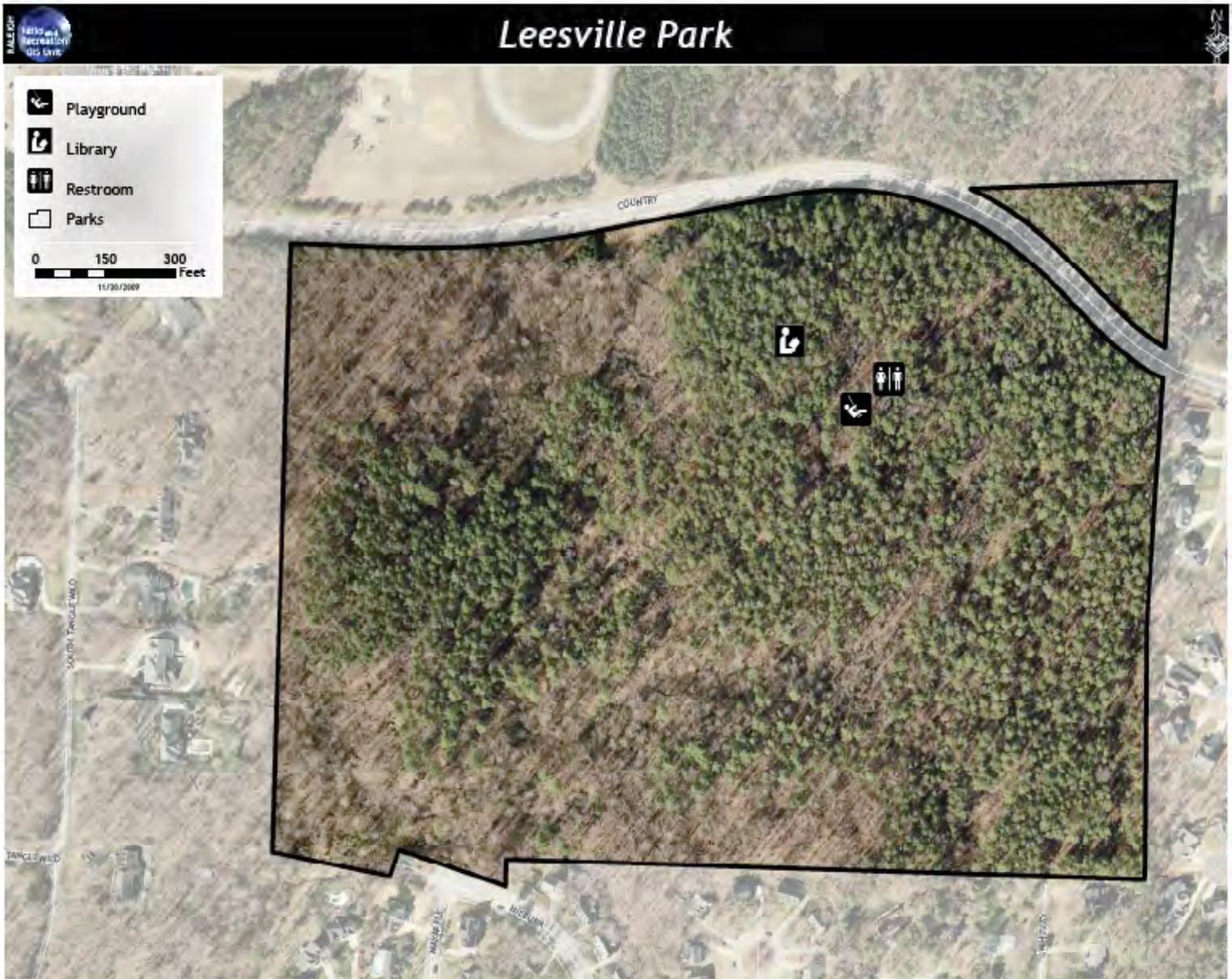
Wooten Meadow Park is located at 2801 West Millbrook Rd, at the intersection of Leesville Road and W. Millbrook Road in Northwest Raleigh. The map below shows additional City of Raleigh parks in the vicinity, and Future Land Use projected for the year 2030.



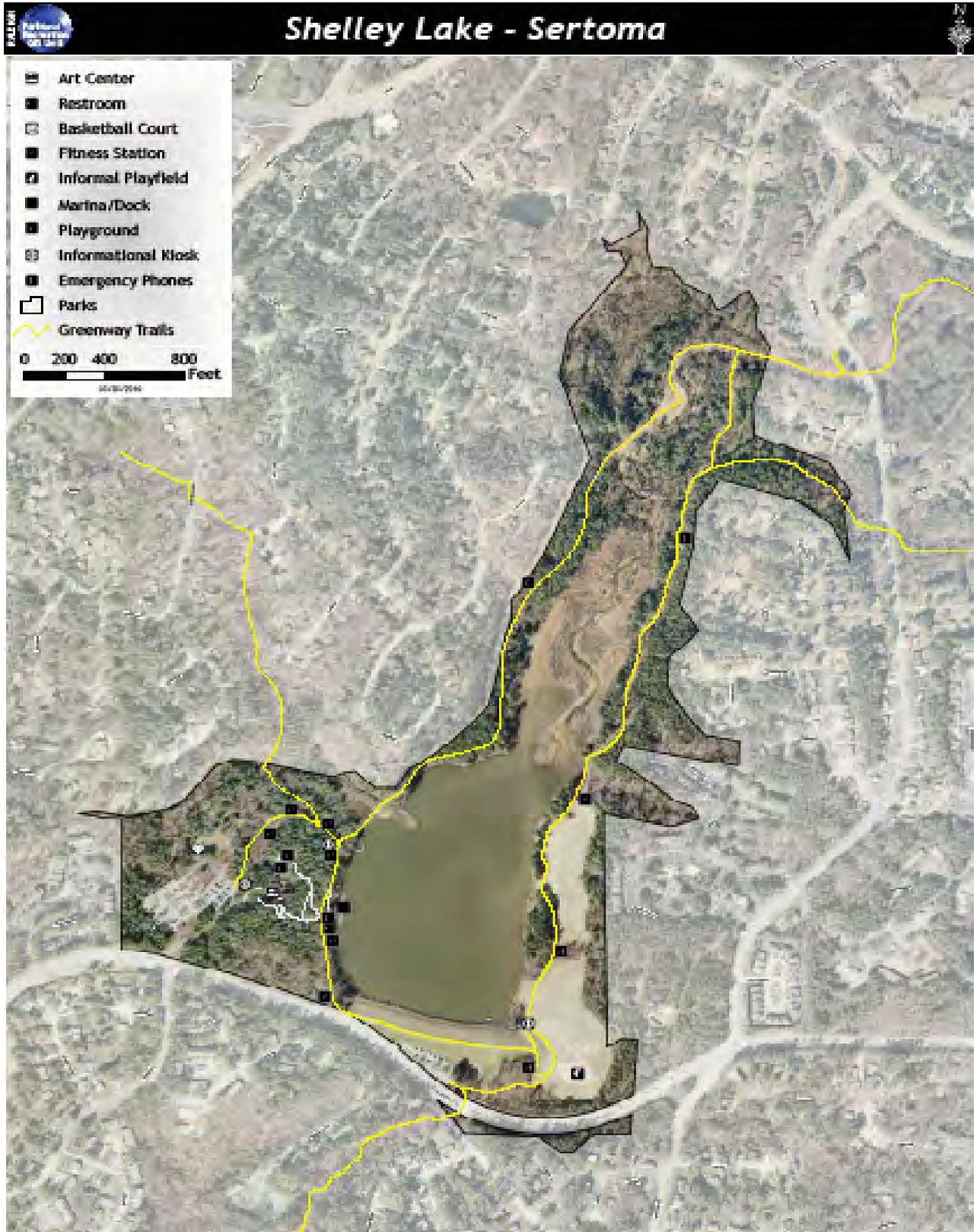
Lake Lynn Park and Community Center is a 52 acre community park located less than three miles north. Lake Lynn includes lighted tennis courts, a lighted ball field, playground, bocce courts, walking trails, and a community center. The Lake Lynn Community Center provides a gymnasium, dance studio, meeting room, weight room, and offers a wide range of programs for the public. There is a three mile greenway trail around the lake that currently terminates on the north side of Wooten Meadow.



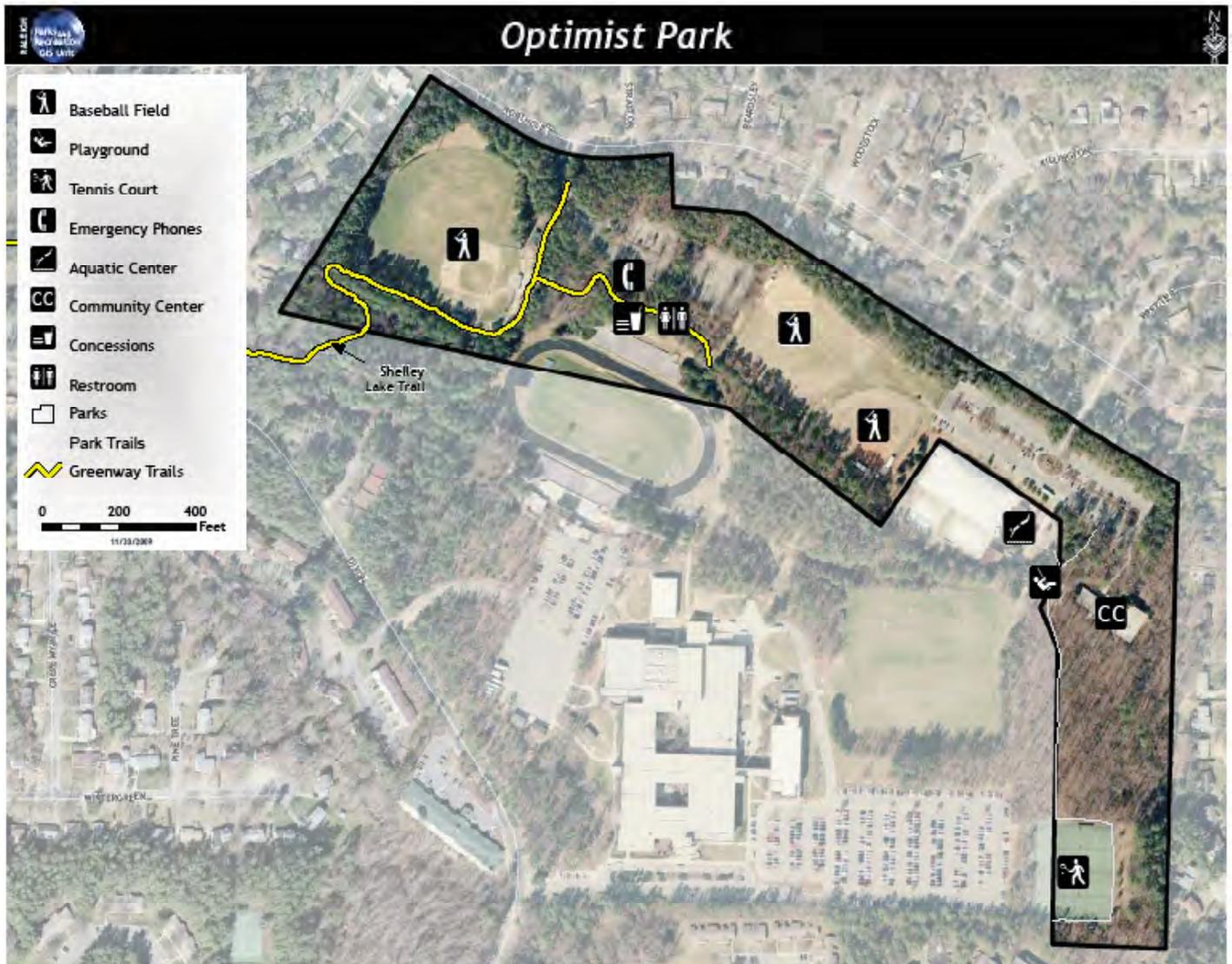
Leesville Community Park is a 55 acre park located approximately 3 miles northwest of Wooten Meadow. Leesville Community Park includes playground equipment for ages 2-5 years and 5-12 years with adjacent restroom facilities, a heritage garden containing historical and cultural remnants discovered on the property, and the Leesville Community Library operated by Wake County. The Master Plan for the park identifies future phases to include a community center, picnic/volleyball area, paved trails, interpretive areas, and an outdoor classroom.



Shelley Lake-Sertoma is a 145 acre Metro Park located less than 2 miles east of Wooten Meadow Park. This park includes a 53 acre lake, 2 miles of paved greenway trails with workout stations around the lake, a playground, multi-use fields, rental space, and Sertoma Arts Center. Sertoma Arts Center provides a variety of art programs including painting, drawing, pottery, crafts, photography, and dance.

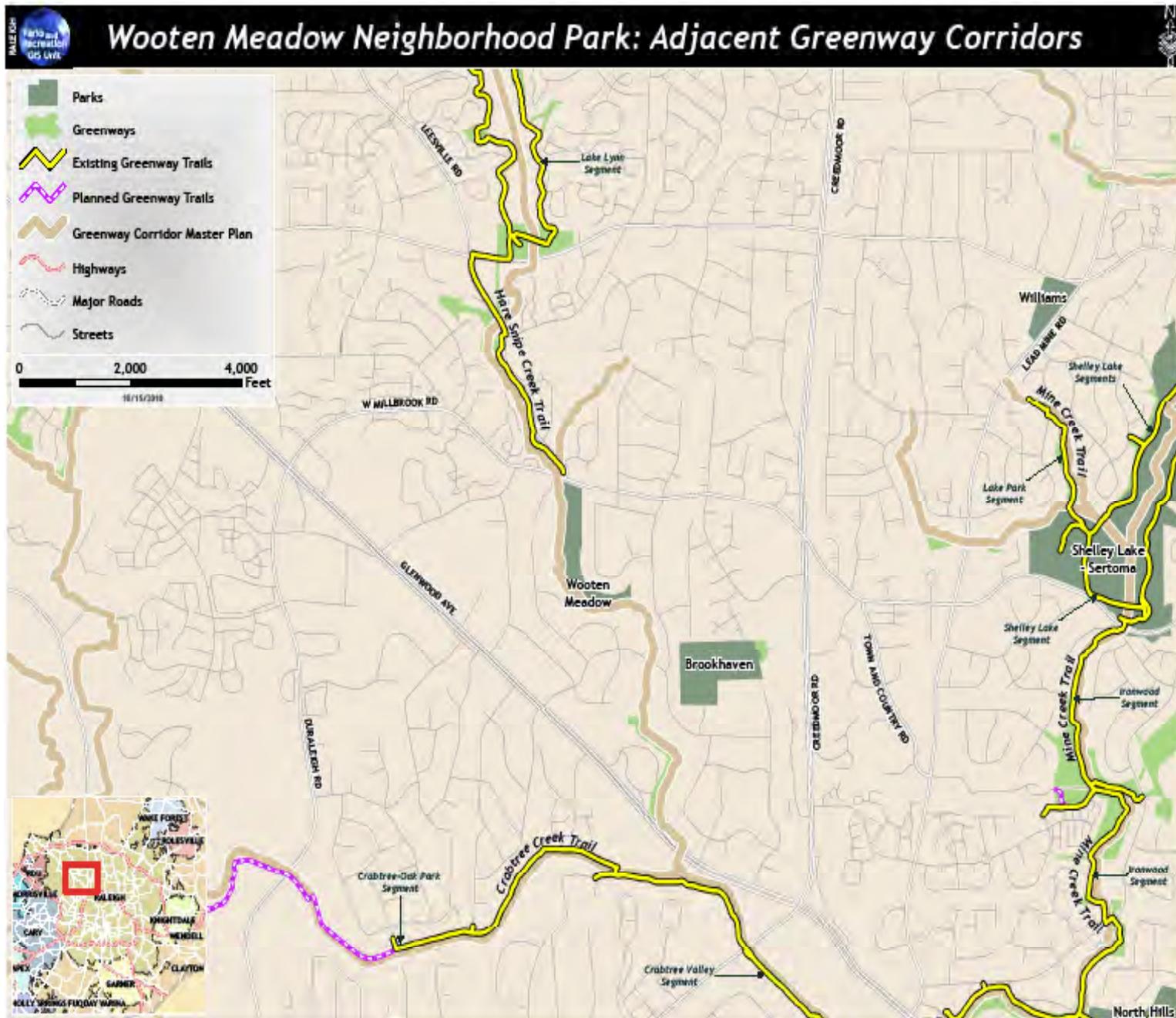


Optimist Community Park, at almost 31 acres, is located just to the east of Shelley Lake-Sertoma Metro Park and provides a community center, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, and a year-round swimming facility with an Olympic size swimming pool and a diving well with low and high diving boards. The park is located behind Sanderson High School and shares facilities with the Wake County Public School System. A greenway trail connects Optimist with Shelley Lake.



Greenways in Vicinity

The City of Raleigh Greenway system is a network of recreational trails and public open spaces that provide opportunities for a range of activities including biking, running, hiking, fishing, picnicking, bird watching, and nature study. Hare Snipe Creek Trail is just north of Wooten Meadow, and is connected to Lake Lynn. Crabtree Creek Trail is located south of the park. The Greenway Corridor Master Plan suggests an eventual connection between the two trails.



What is a System Integration Plan?

The System Integration Plan (SIP) is a sub-section of the overall City Park Master Planning process described in *City of Raleigh Council Resolution (2003) – 735*. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department undertakes a public master plan process to help determine the specific elements that are desired in a particular park. The purpose of the site specific System Integration Plan is to develop a set of guidelines for the interim management of parkland prior to the initiation of a Master Plan. The SIP will document existing site conditions and constraints, establish the park's classification consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and if applicable, any proposed special intent for the park. **Further details on System Integration Plans and the park master plan process for Wooten Meadow are included in Appendix A.**

Property Acquisition

Wooten Meadow Neighborhood Park was donated to the City of Raleigh in 1996 to be developed and used for the enjoyment of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway. The property donator, Mr. Louis E. Wooten Jr., requested that the park and/or greenway be named for his father L.E.Wooten.

Deed Restrictions

The Warranty Deed for the property contains the following "Exhibit A"

Title to the property is subject to the following exceptions:

- *Right of way of Pleasant Grove Church Road and Leesville Road, and to easement for additional right of way to the City of Raleigh as described in Book 1613, Page 95, Wake County Registry.*
- *Forty-foot sanitary sewer easement shown on aforesaid map by J. Fred Davis, Jr., Inc. dated December 21, 1984 and to other sewer easements of record to the City of Raleigh.*

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Report

A *Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment* was completed in 1995 for Wooten Meadow Park during the site acquisition process; the Executive Summary of the report is included in Appendix B. The *Phase 1* report concludes no significant evidence of environmental contamination, environmental impairment, or Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC) in association with the property.

Neighborhood Park Classification

The City of Raleigh park classification system aims to provide a diverse, well-balanced, well-maintained range of recreational opportunities. The five park classifications are Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Metro Parks, Special Parks, and Nature Preserves. Neighborhood Parks are expected to serve the basic daily recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. They most often include playgrounds, court surfaces such as basketball, tennis or volleyball, and open space or multi-use turf areas. Depending on the size, topography and other site characteristics, neighborhood parks may serve other needs as determined by the master planning process, proximity to other parks and greenway lands, and overall Parks and Recreation Department program needs. Smaller sites may be limited to very few elements; larger sites may present opportunities for elements such as walking tracks, athletic fields or neighborhood center buildings. In some cases deed restrictions or environmental requirements may dictate the options available. Other considerations, such as the size and character of existing parks in the area, barriers to access (such as major thoroughfares), availability of opportunities for future acquisition, and other elements of the City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan are also taken into account when acquiring parkland. Based on the 2004 Park Plan, the number of acres of existing neighborhood parkland compared to the expected population of an area is used to try to meet a Level of Service of 2.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 population. A new Park System Plan process is underway at the time of this SIP. The new park System Plan includes park classification review and a detailed evaluation of system needs and service expectations for park properties.

City of Raleigh Nature Preserves Criteria

A Nature Preserves Task Force was established in May 2010 at the request of Raleigh City Council. The Task Force consisted of representatives from the City of Raleigh, Wake Nature Preserves Partnership, and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB). The Task Force developed “Nature Preserves Criteria” for the purpose of evaluating existing park properties to determine whether the properties should be classified as Nature Preserves or Protected Natural Areas.

A “Nature Preserve” park classification is defined as an entire park unit that contains examples of high-quality plant or animal populations, natural communities, landscapes or ecosystems, documented by subject matter experts through local or state programs, that contribute to biodiversity and environmental health. The size of a Nature Preserve should be sufficient to buffer, conserve, and protect the target element or area. Efforts should be made to protect and manage significant natural resources in these areas through stewardship and best-practice management that do not degrade the resources present. Opportunities for the public enjoyment of natural resource based recreation and environmental education may be provided that are compatible with the protection and enhancement of the Nature Preserve and the nature experience.

A “Protected Natural Area” overlay classification is defined as a portion of a park unit that contains examples of high-quality plant or animal populations, natural communities, landscapes or ecosystems, documented by subject matter experts through local or state programs, that contribute to biodiversity and environmental health. In the case of existing parks, Natural Areas should be identified as part of an inventory process based on the natural resources, buffers, educational opportunities, and consistency with adopted master plans. Efforts should be made to protect and manage significant natural resources in these areas through stewardship and best-practice management that do not degrade the resources present. The designation of a Protected Natural Area should be differentiated from areas reserved for future development.

The criteria developed by the Task Force includes both objective and subjective criteria to facilitate evaluation of existing parks for classification or re-classification as “Nature Preserves”, or recommendation for a “Protected Natural Area” overlay within a park unit. A copy of the **Nature Preserve Task Force Report** is available at www.raleighnc.gov (search for Nature Preserve Park Classification or NPTF).

Wooten Meadow has undergone an initial evaluation for potential park classification as a Nature Preserve or Protected Natural Area, using the City of Raleigh Nature Preserves Criteria. Wooten Meadow does provide important stormwater benefits and contributes both riparian and aquatic habitat to a wildlife habitat corridor between Lake Lynn and Crabtree Creek. There are no known occurrences of protected plant or animal species on the property. At the time of this report, the extent of invasive species occurring throughout the park negatively impacts the quality of the natural area, and the site does not achieve the quality associated with a Nature Preserve or Protected Natural Area. The Wooten Meadow property is **recommended for classification as a Neighborhood Park**. Final determination for the best use of the park could occur during a future phase of park planning and development. A detailed application of the Nature Preserve Criteria to Wooten Meadow Neighborhood Park is included in Appendix C.

Wooten Meadow Cultural Resources and Historical Site Use



Hare Snipe Creek, circa 1930. Photo by Jim Denmark

Cultural Resources and Historical Site Use

Structural remains and other signs of land use history have been observed in the vicinity of the Wooten Meadow property near Hare Snipe Creek. Structural remains observed on the park property include an old dry stacked stone dam. The dam is reported from various sources as the remains of a mill dam associated with the 1773 Moses Parks Mill and/or the JD Hayes Mill labeled on the 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County. Mill foundations and remains of a mill head race are located in the vicinity on adjacent (currently privately owned) property. More details of the mill history are included on page 13 of this report. Additional land use history in the vicinity of the property is evaluated with maps, aerial photos, and other supporting information.

The cultural resources and land use background study of the Wooten Meadow property and surrounding area was initiated using the following data sources:

1. Historic maps of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History. The scale and accuracy of historic maps vary. Key features used to determine the approximate location of the Wooten Meadow property on historic maps are Hare Snipe Creek, Leesville Road, Glenwood Road, and Crabtree Creek.

- 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County
- 1887 Shaffer's Map of Wake County
- 1904 School Map of Wake County, W.G. Clements
- 1914 Wake County Soil Survey Map
- 1938 NC State Highway and Public Works Commission Map of Wake County

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service in Raleigh North Carolina aerial photographs:

- a. Photo BOP-4F-86, Grid M-7, flown March 29, 1949
- b. Photo BOP-4N-188, Grid M-7, flown January 2, 1955
- c. Photo BOP-5FF-112, Grid M-7, flown March 15, 1965
- d. Photo BOP-2MM-27, Grid M-7, flown February 23, 1971
- e. Photo USDA 40 37183, Grid 178-42, flown April 26, 1988
- f. Photo NAPP 6134-29, Grid G-8, flown February 19, 1993

3. Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Wooten Property, Raleigh, NC, July 13, 1995 by Aquaterra, Inc.

4. Deed records from the property and U.S. Census records available on-line through Ancestry.com.

5. NC State Archives and "House Creek Township" folder from Olivia Raney Local History Library, Raleigh NC. The folder contains excerpts from a variety of sources, including Kelly A. Lally's *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, NC*

6. Historians/Subject Matter Experts on old mill sites in Wake County: Karl W. Wegmann, NCSU Assistant Professor, Doug Swords, Director of the Grist Mill Location Project, and James P Jones, Colonial History

7. Historic mill ponds and piedmont stream water quality: Making the connection near Raleigh, North Carolina, by Karl W. Wegmann et al, NCSU 2012 for The Geological Society of America Field Guide 29

8. Thesis- Millponds: An Archive for Post-Colonial Storm Histories, by Michael Cody Hunt, NCSU Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences 2011

9. Thesis- "I Am History, Don't Destroy Please": Three Gristmills and Their Communities in Wake County, North Carolina by Leslie Hawkins, NCSU History Department 2008



Dry-stacked stone dam remains covered by English ivy

A dry-stacked stone dam occurs on the Wooten Meadow property in the general location of the JD Hayes mill on the 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County. It is believed that the Wooten Meadow park property lies within a relic mill pond site that was located on Hare Snipe Creek.

Historians believe the dam pictured above was built for the Moses Parks mill, around 1773. Three men (likely investors) petitioned for a mill in this location along Hare Snipe Creek in 1773 (Richard Heartsville, Nathaniel Kimbrough, and John Hartsvield) (NC State Archives). The mill was situated on the property of Moses Parks, as evidenced in two land grants surveyed January 31, 1780. The location of the mill was at the intersection of two land grants for James House and Moses Parks. The original survey text for the starting point of the James House survey is "*Beginning at a water oak on Hairy Snipe Cr in Moses Park's line near his Mill*", indicating that in 1780 at the time of the land survey, the Moses Parks mill already existed.

North Carolina was declared a state in 1776, the General Assembly was created in 1777 and an act in 1777 allowed men who took an oath of allegiance to the state to purchase land based on 50 shillings an acre and dependent on how many people were in the household. The process of receiving land patents during this time included making a claim on vacant land and if not contested within 3 months the claim would go to the county surveyor for permission to survey the land and thus create a warrant and plat for the land. The surveyor sent the plat and warrant to the secretary of state who created the patent. During the Revolutionary Period (1763-1783), the method of land ownership included land grants to early settlers in what was to become Wake County.

Early settlers built water-powered mills along small creeks and streams to grind grain. Each mill had a pond to supply a constant source of water to the mill. **A Colonial North Carolina Law of 1758 stated that all mills had to be accessible to the public and required a license from the County court in order to dam a waterway to build a mill. A 1777 law said "Every grist or grain mill, however powered or operated, which grinds for toll is a public mill".**



Dry-stacked stone dam remains are still visible on the west side of Hare Snipe Creek. Jumbled dam remains within the stream bed are also visible slightly downstream, as large dam rocks have been carried downstream over time by swift current.

A “JD Hayes Mill” is shown in approximately the same location as the Moses Parks Mill on the 1871 Fendol Bever’s Map of Wake County (see page 17). It is unknown whether the JD Hayes Mill replaced the original Parks Mill or was built near the original mill. There are several structural remains in the vicinity; additional cultural explorations are needed to clarify and expand existing knowledge.

The name *JD Hayes* occurs numerous times in regional historic records: The 1870 Industrial Census lists a “J Hays Mill with a 4x20 foot overshot wheel”.The North Carolina Business Directory for Wake County in 1880-1881 listed JD Hayes as a Justice in House Creek Township. The North Carolina Business Directory for Wake County in 1884 listed JD Hayes as a farmer, owner of “Hayes Store”, and Magistrate for House Creek Township. In 1886 JD Hayes was listed as a Justice of the Peace for House Creek Township. “*Notice to Soldier Families: I will attend at the Court House in Raleigh on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, for the purpose of paying off the orders issued by agenda for the relief of indigent families of soldiers - JD Hayes, County Commissioner*” . (Blood and War at My Doorstep, B. Mckean,1863) According to an 1840 Manufacturing Census, more than 65,000 water-powered mills were located along streams in the eastern United States. In 1891, Wake County had 75 water-powered grist mills.

“The local gristmill, in addition to providing the service of grinding grains, often had other services, such as cotton ginning machinery on site, or a blacksmith shop, community store, or distillery available nearby so farmers could most effectively use and enjoy their time spent away from working the land”. (L Hawkins, 2008)

The 1871 Fendol Bever’s map shows JD Hayes mill and mill pond on Hare Snipe Creek approximately .93 miles north of Crabtree Creek. Hayes Store was located near the mill, and was a voting place and post office, and was in operation from the 1860s to 1880s. A winery “SD Franklin Vineyard” is shown to the south of JD Hayes Mill near Hare Snipe Creek.

On the current Wooten Meadow property, on the east side of the dry-stacked stone dam remains, a worn path lies along the mid-ridge of the slope. Over thirty metal fence posts run along the length of this ridge. Aerial photos of the site, from as early as 1949, indicate several potential old roads or paths on the site that could be historically important. Archeological studies of the site should include investigation of historic periods and Native American history, and should include the park site and accessible neighboring properties in the vicinity.

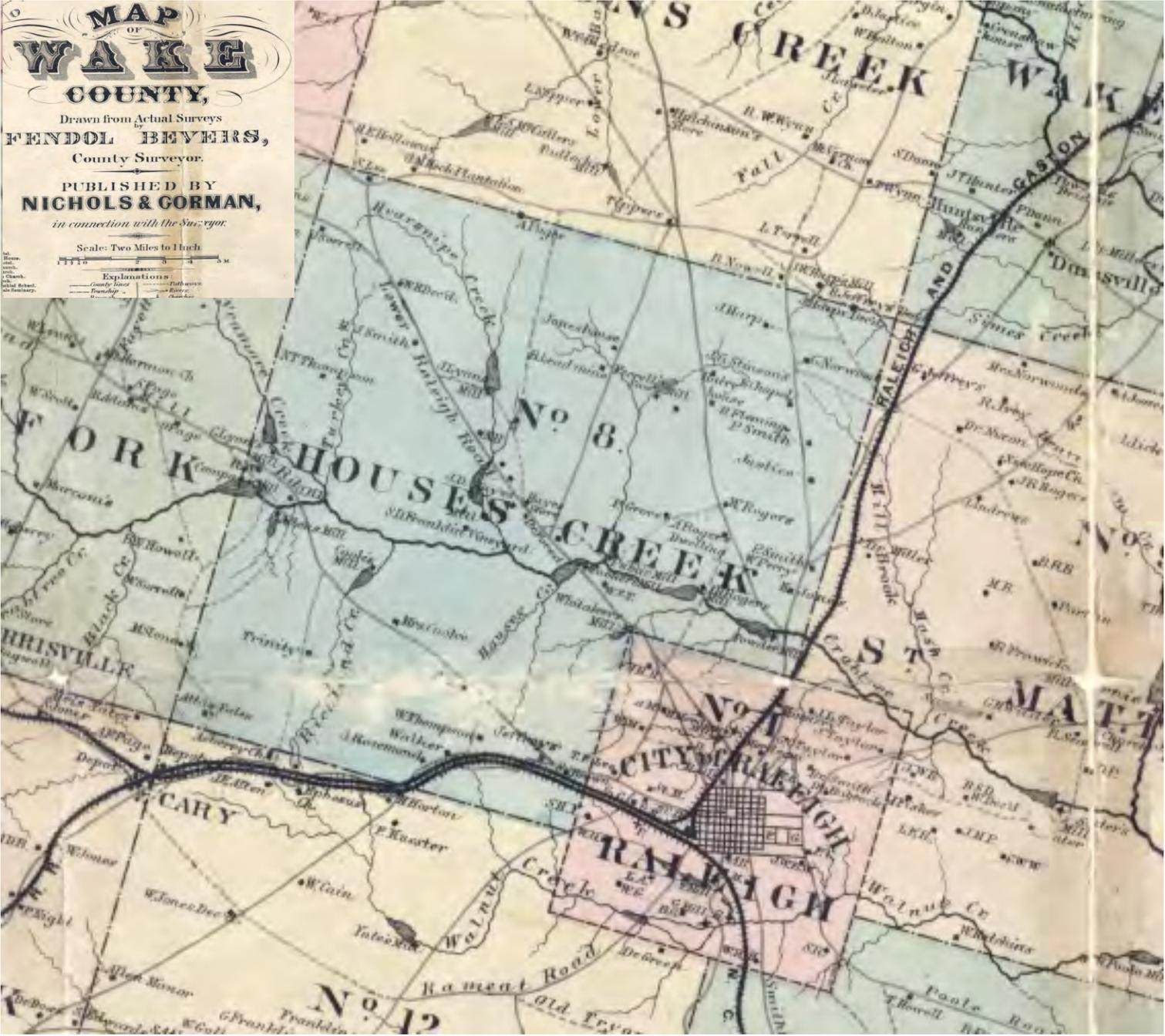


Linear mid-ridge line occurring at east side of dam remains, visible on lidar map on page 18.



A portion of the eastern sewer easement is located on what may have been an old road bed. Water collects in the adjacent low area during the winter.

“Imagine when a lonely house was feature enough to identify whole stretch of wooded hill and valley, where Brookhaven and Oak Park and the Royal Villa and noisy US 70 now are - House Creek Township” - Raleigh Times, 28 May 1977 “The Trace of Times Past”.

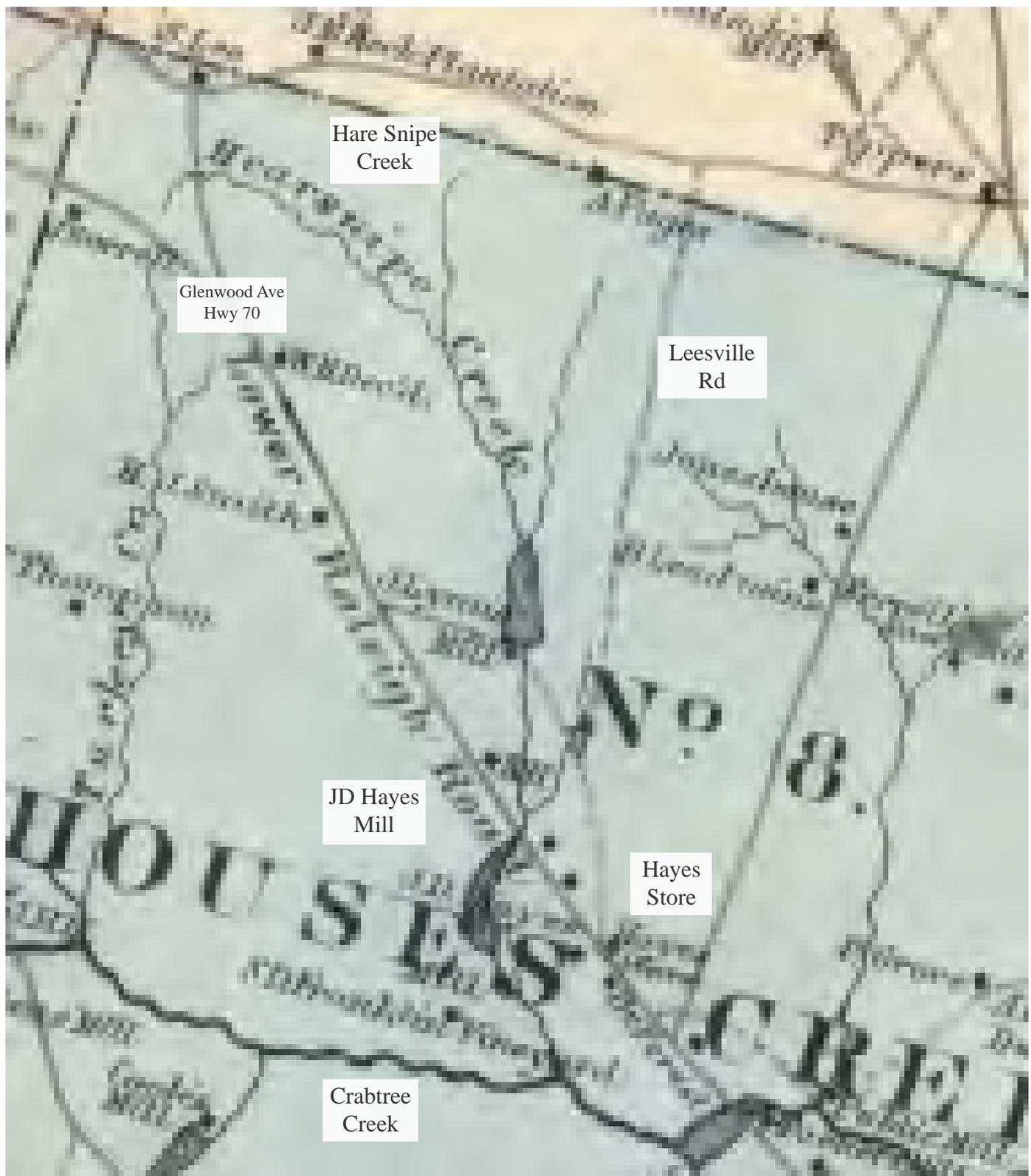


House Creek Township on the 1871 Fendol Bever’s Map of Wake County

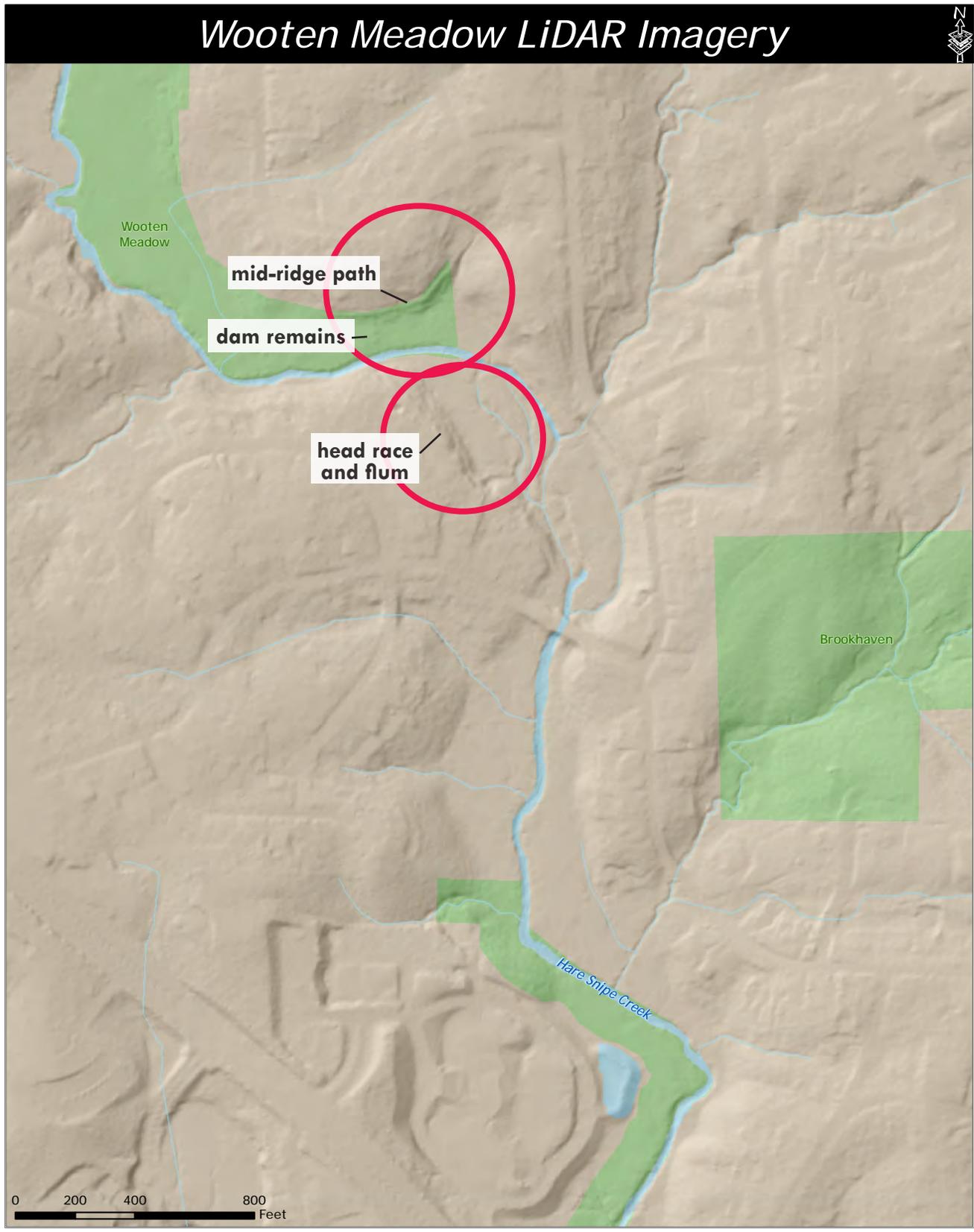
Description of House Creek Township on the map: Rocky and broken, drak grey soils, red subsoil. Good water. Products: Corn, Wheat, Oats, Potatoes, Peas, Cotton Wood: Oak, Hickory, Pine, Black Jack

Early maps depicted streams, main roads, property owners, and mills. JD Hayes’ Mill is mapped along Hare Snipe Creek in House Creek Township. the only other mill shown along Hare Snipe Creek is J Lynn’s Mill. The mill ponds associated with the mills are shaded in.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1871



The 1871 Fendol Bever's map shows JD Hayes mill and mill pond on Hare Snipe Creek approximately .93 miles north of Crabtree Creek. Hayes Store, also shown on the map, was a voting place and included a post office, and was in operation from the 1860s to 1880s. Glenwood Ave (US Hwy 70) was called Lower Raleigh Rd on the 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County. A winery "SD Franklin Vineyard" is shown to the south of JD Hayes Mill.



Lidar map above shows the extent of the existing dam remains, the head race and flum. The mid-ridge line above the dam may be an old path or road (pictured on page 15).



Historic JD Hayes mill pond extent estimated by Dr Karl Wegmann and Doug Swords. Coordinate point at the top of the map is where the stream bed elevation matches the approximate elevation at the top of the dam. Coordinate points lower on the map represent the dry-stacked stone dam remains, the mill foundations and head race.

Water powered mills with their associated dams and mill ponds created historic modifications of the watershed. The JD Hayes mill site on Hare Snipe Creek is estimated to have created a long narrow mill pond, with ponded water stretching upstream to a point approximately 2,744 feet north of the dam's center point, based on an estimated 10 foot water height of other mill ponds from that generation, contour lines, and length of the dam. **In comparison, Lake Lynn currently ponds water along 3900 feet of Hare Snipe Creek.**

Over time, the mill pond would have filled in with sediment, called "backwater" or "slackwater sediments". "Mill ponds are dynamic environments, with fluctuations in shoreline". (M. Hunt, 2011) The JD Hayes dam was likely breached sometime between 1871 and 1887, because the mill appears on the 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County, but is absent from the 1887 Shaffer's Map of Wake County. Also by 1887, voting had changed from Hayes Store to "Edward's Store", mapped in approximately the same location.

The Table below is an excerpt from the 1871 Fendol Bever's Map of Wake County, describing the population of the Townships. House Creek Township is described as: 57.14 square miles, with 133 farms, and a population of 2,172. There were 383 dwellings within the township. The population included 575 white males, 639 white females, 474 colored males, and 484 colored females. In the 1870 Census, there were 386 families, in 386 dwellings reported. Pleasant Grove was a predominantly white community.

A TABLE

Showing the population of the different Townships in Wake County, N. C., Male and Female, White and Colored, with the number of dwellings and families in each, before any change was made in the lines, and from which the Census of 1870 was taken; also, the area in square miles, number of Farms and number of Acres in each Township, together with other valuable information. The survey was made expressly for this Map by the County Surveyor.

Number	Name of Township.	No. of sq. miles first set off, & from which the Census was taken.	Change in square miles to or from.	Present area in square miles, and according to the Map.	Number of acres in each Township.	Number of Farms in each Township.	Number of White Males.	Number of White Females.	Number of Colored Males.	Number of Colored Females.	Number of Dwellings.	Number of Families.	Total Number of individuals in each Township.
1	Raleigh	16.00		16.00	10,240	45	2,385	2,385	2,544	3,065	1,765	1,949	10,260
2	New Light	30.00	16.28	46.28	29,619	80	250	273	136	139	144	144	798
3	Oak Grove	68.56		68.56	43,878	240	798	754	398	350		35	2,300
4	Barton's Creek	64.00	16.28	47.72	30,540	80	482	552	283	261	315	315	1,578
5	Walnut Forest	74.00		74.00	47,360	200	794	734	823	784	561	566	3,135
6	Little River	64.00		64.00	40,960	172	364	424	253	274	250	250	1,315
7	Cedar Fork	64.00		64.00	40,960	90	400	506	257	292	272	272	1,455
8	House's Creek	57.14		57.14	36,569	133	575	639	474	484	383	385	2,172
9	St. Matthew's	59.22		59.22	37,900	110	580	624	520	470	417	420	2,194
10	Mark Creek	56.24		56.24	35,993	143	349	364	320	321	261	261	1,354
11	White Oak	64.00		64.00	40,960	162	536	617	267	272	316	326	1,682
12	Swift Creek	61.62		61.62	39,436	66	474	482	260	230	275	275	1,455
13	St. Mary's	71.76	4.50	67.26	43,046	213	555	596	447	447	377	379	2,045
14	Buckhorn	66.16		66.16	42,342	150	481	346	344	346	325	320	1,517
15	Middle Creek	71.36		71.36	45,670	86	466	506	247	262	270	270	1,471
16	Panther Branch	23.84	4.50	19.34	21,209	66	246	231	220	224	179	183	921
	Total			916.70	586,682	2,036	9,636	10,033	7,783	8,200	6,495	6,700	35,652

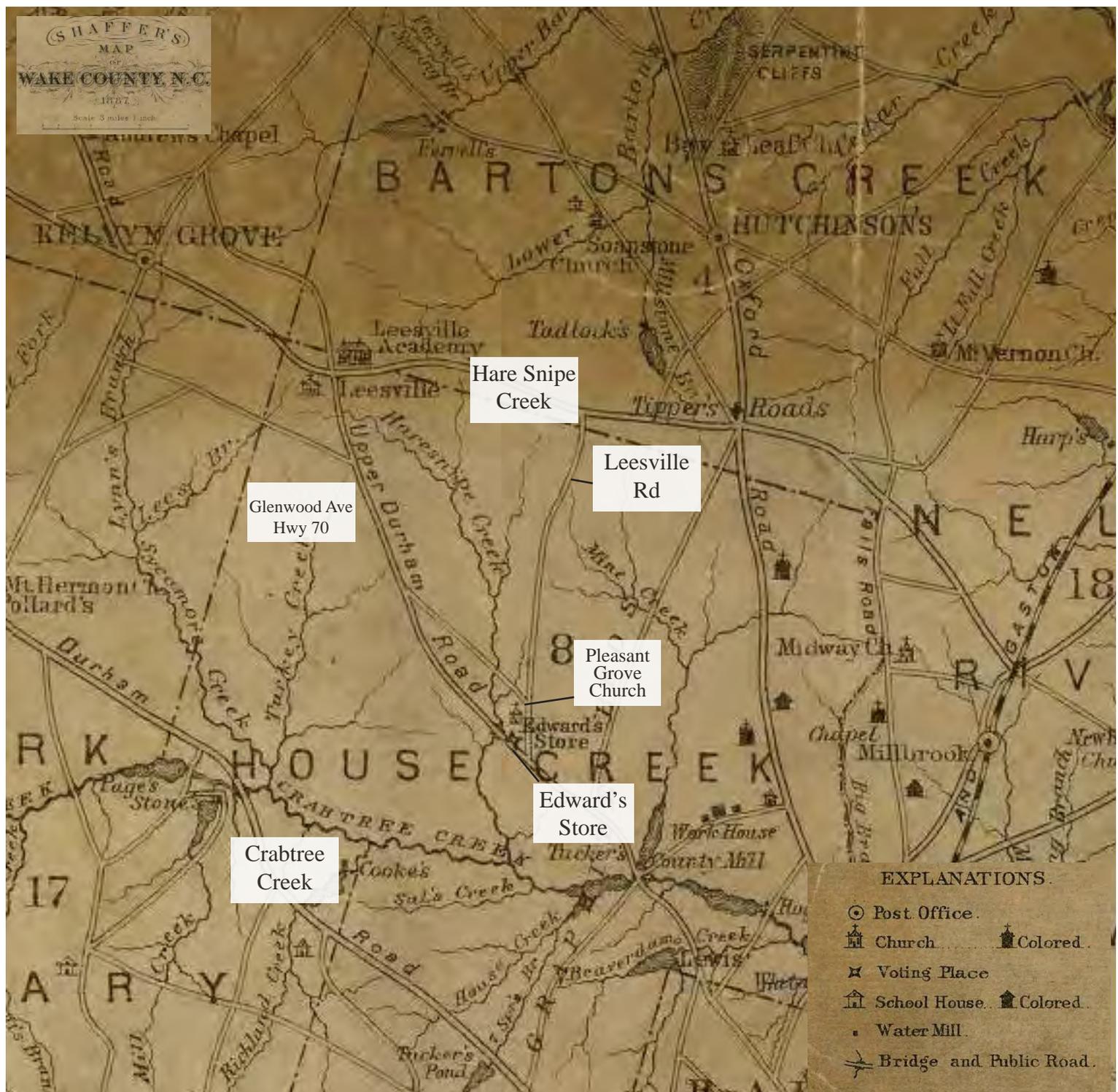
House Creek Township

The current location of the Wooten Meadow Property consists of a 20.5-acre area located at 2801 W. Millbrook Rd, south of the intersection with Leesville Rd. The property is located in House Creek Township, which was established in 1868. The current size of House Creek Township is much smaller than it was originally, due to annexations. House Creek Township historically included Five Points, Oberlin, and Method communities, all of which are now located in Raleigh (Lally, Kelly A., The Historic Architecture of Wake County, NC). The population data below shows the decrease in population after annexation in 1920 and 1940.

House Creek Township population from 1870-1940:

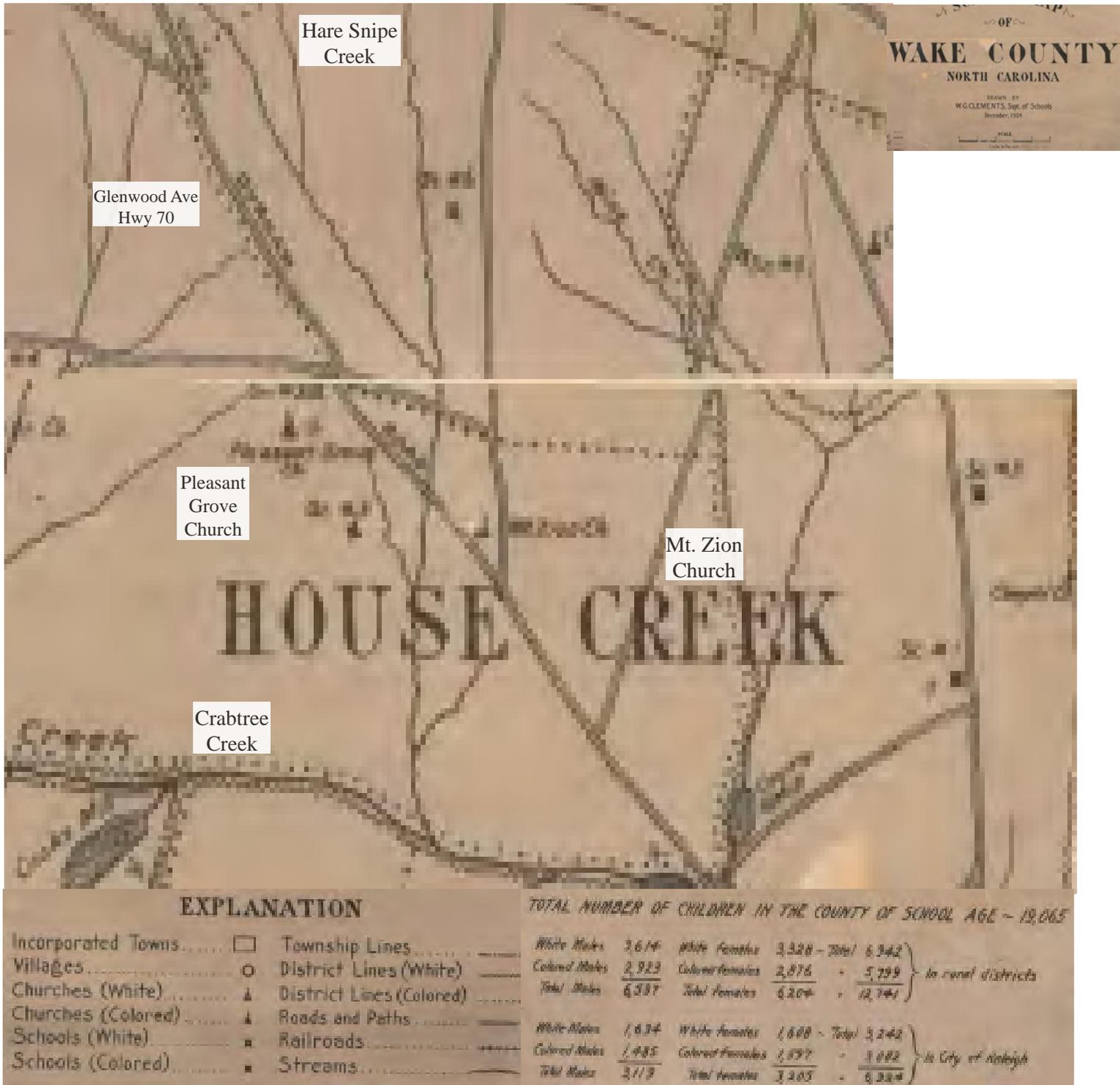
1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
2,098	2,304	2,226	2,226	2,510	1,840	2,368	1,032

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1887

**House Creek Township on the 1887 Shaffer's Map of Wake County**

By 1887, there is no longer a mill shown at Hare Snipe near Crabtree Creek, leading historians to believe the JD Hayes mill dam was breached between 1871 and 1887. Glenwood Ave (Hwy 70) was called Upper Durham Rd on the 1887 Shaffer's Map of Wake County. In 1882, the name of Hayes Store is changed to Edward's Store, and is labeled as a Voting Place. "...The polling place, heretofore located at Hayes Store in Houses Creek Township be changed to the Store of JT Edwards, just beyond the old place of voting, and all voters in said Township North of Crabtree Creek vote at Edward's Store" (WCBCC Minutes, 6 Sept 1882). A Church and School House are labeled in the vicinity of Edward's Store. The church is likely Pleasant Grove Church, named on subsequent maps and reported at the site since the 1850s.

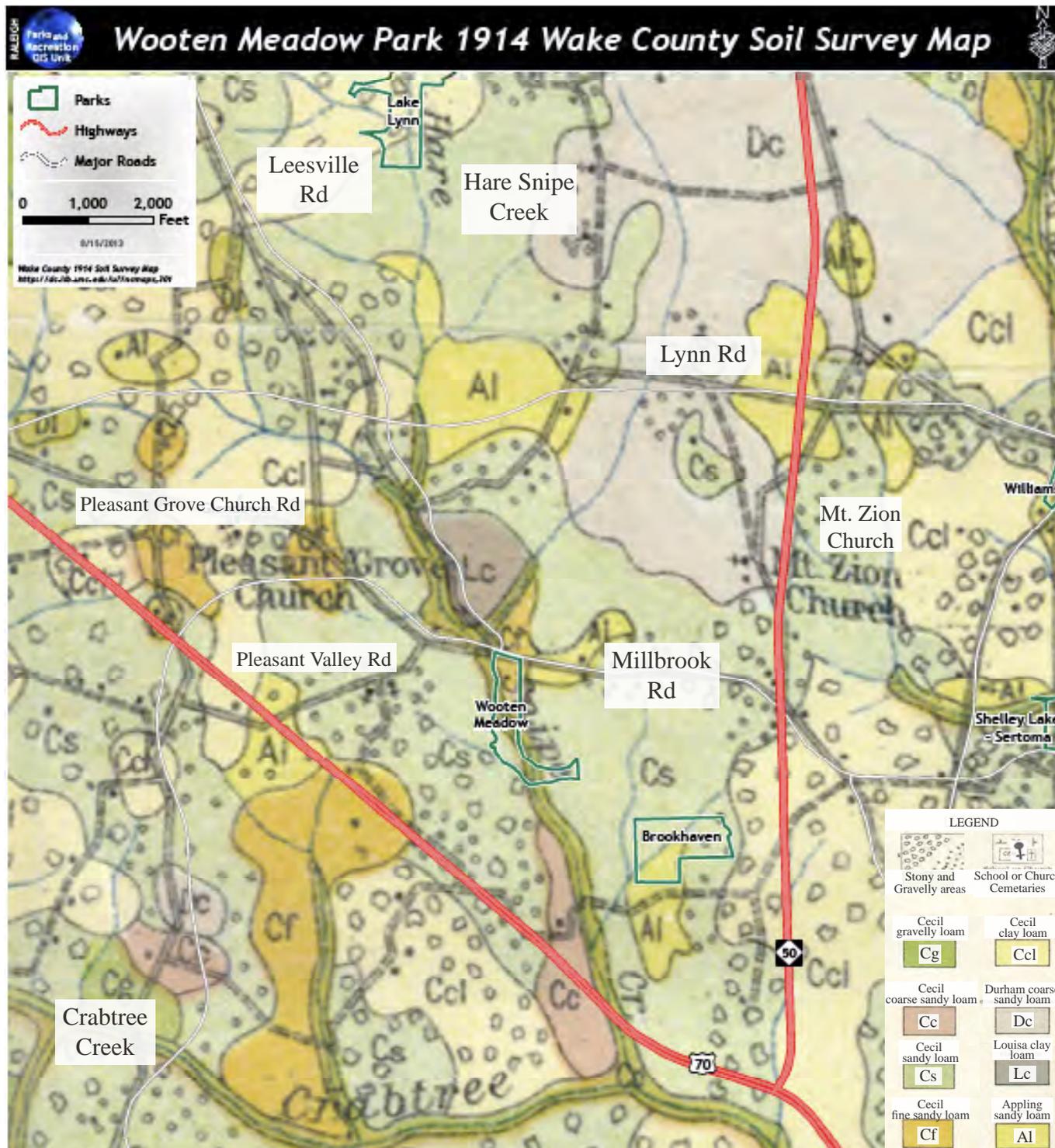
Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1904



House Creek Township on the 1904 School Map of Wake County

In the September 9, 1872 *Wake Board of Education Minutes*, House Creek Township had 579 school children in 4 schools. Children attended school for 2 months. School attendance in House Creek included 48 white males, 33 white females, 88 colored males, 98 colored females. In 1904, according to the School Map of Wake County (above) the area around Hare Snipe Creek appears to be a colored district, however the Pleasant Grove Community was noted in historic records as a white community (Olivia Raney Local History Library). Schools #3 and #6 along Hare Snipe Creek are labeled as colored schools. Two schools labeled as #3 are in proximity of Pleasant Grove Church (inaccurately labeled on the west side of Upper Durham Rd), one school for whites and one school for coloreds. Today, the Pleasant Grove Church Cemetery has a section for whites and a section for “Slave and Free Blacks”. The black markers do not have names. (*Cemetery Census, 2013*)

Vicinity of property in 1914, with current location of park overlaid on 1914 Wake County Soil Survey Map after geo-reference for accuracy (USDA)



The Historic 1914 Wake County Soil Survey Map (US Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils) is overlaid on a 2013 map. The historic map has been geo-referenced for accuracy. The overlay shows both the historic and current locations of Leesville Rd and Millbrook Rd. The historic map shows the locations of Pleasant Grove Church and Mt Zion Church. The church located south of Pleasant Valley road is likely Piney Grove Church, established in 1908 (see photo on next page).

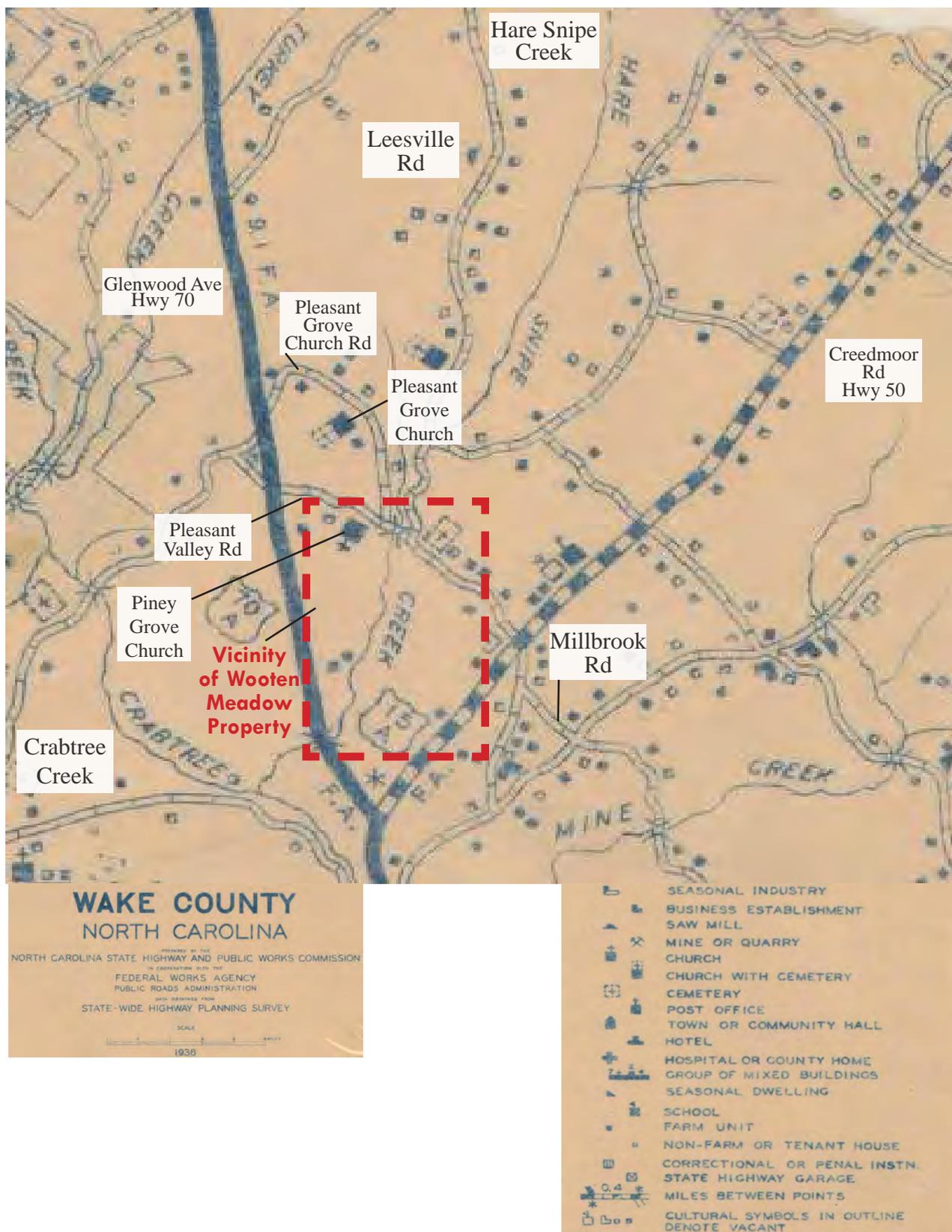


Piney Grove Church is now called Piney Grove AME Church (African Methodist Episcopal Church)



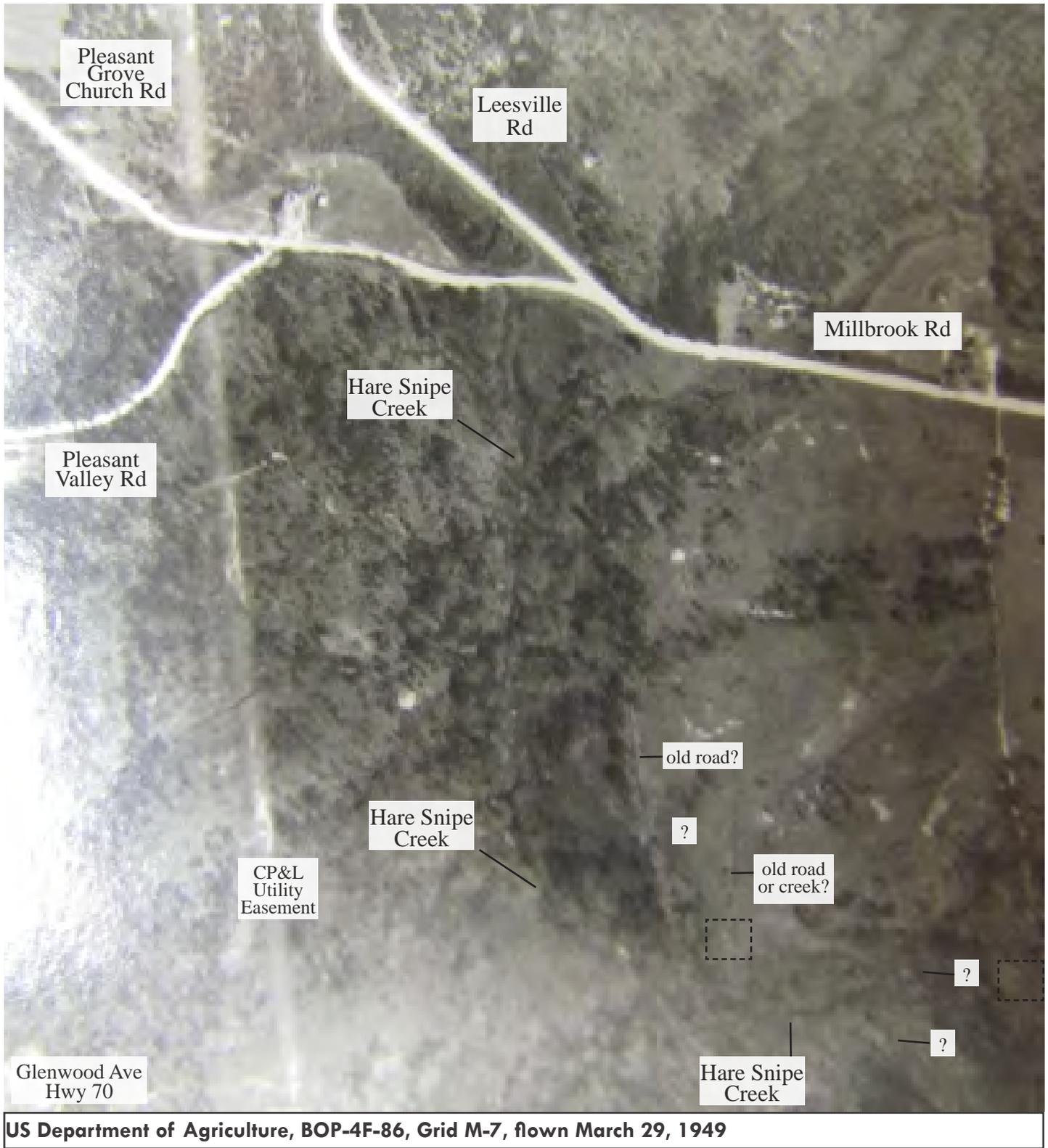
Piney Grove Church was established in 1908.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1938



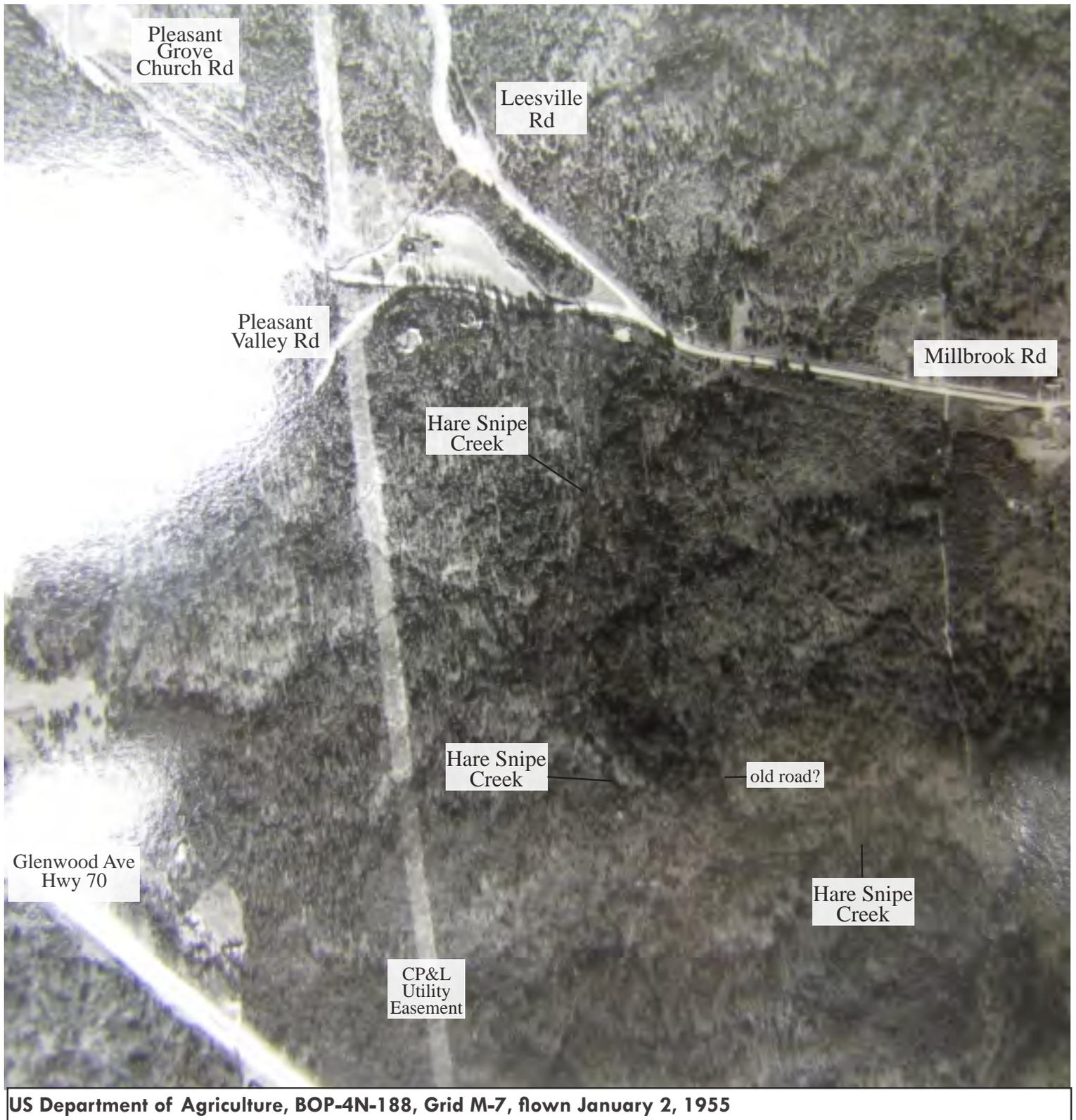
A 1938 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map depicts major roads and structures in the vicinity of the Wooten Meadow property. Creedmoor Rd (Hwy50) was called Hwy 15A at the time.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1949



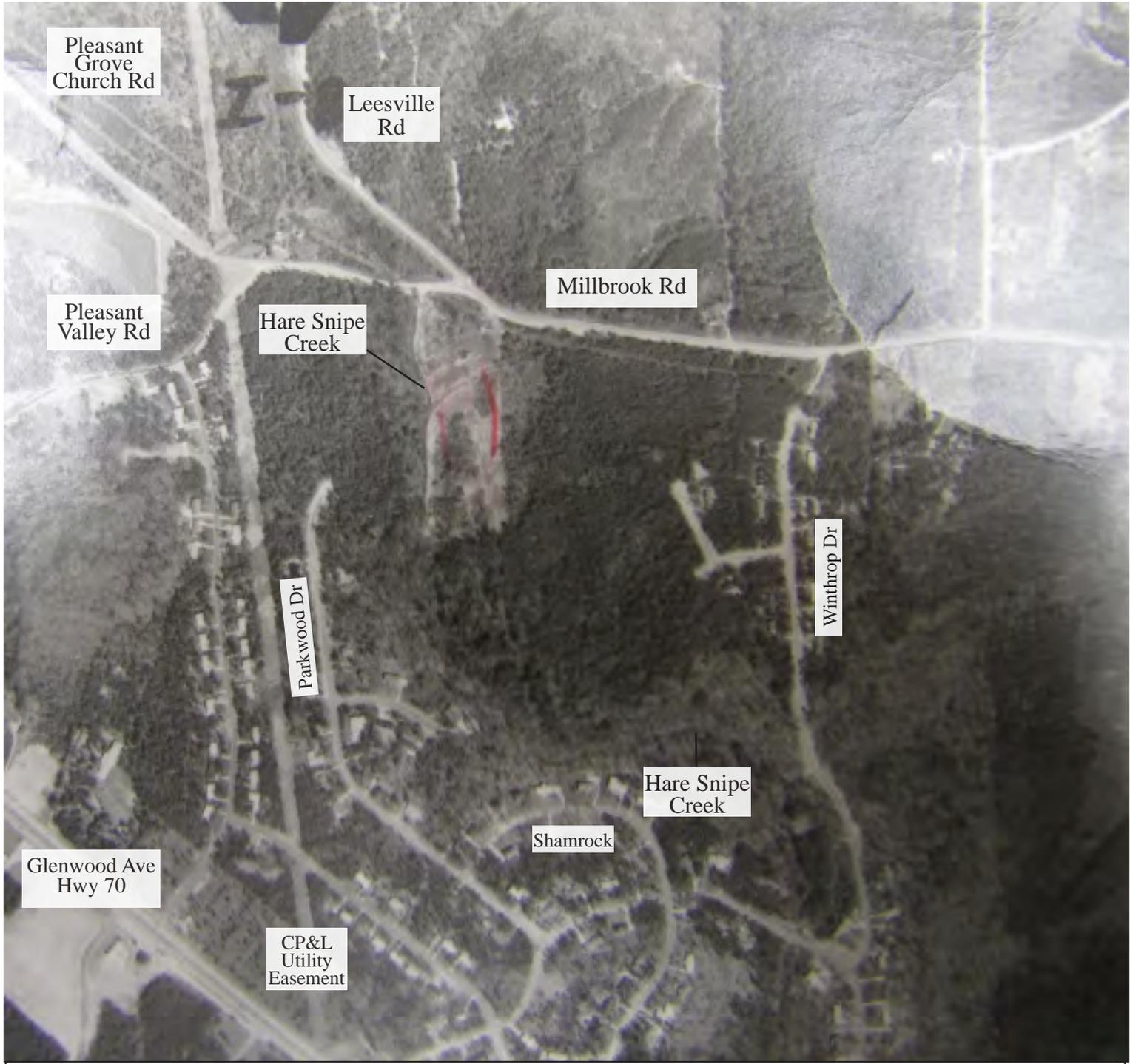
Hare Snipe Creek makes up the western property boundary of Wooten Meadow. There is a branch of the creek that flows west across the property near Millbrook Rd, and a branch in the south central portion of the property (see Wooten Hydrology map on page 50). Structural remains from a historic homestead have been found near the southeastern property boundary, just north of Hare Snipe Creek.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1955



US Department of Agriculture, BOP-4N-188, Grid M-7, flown January 2, 1955

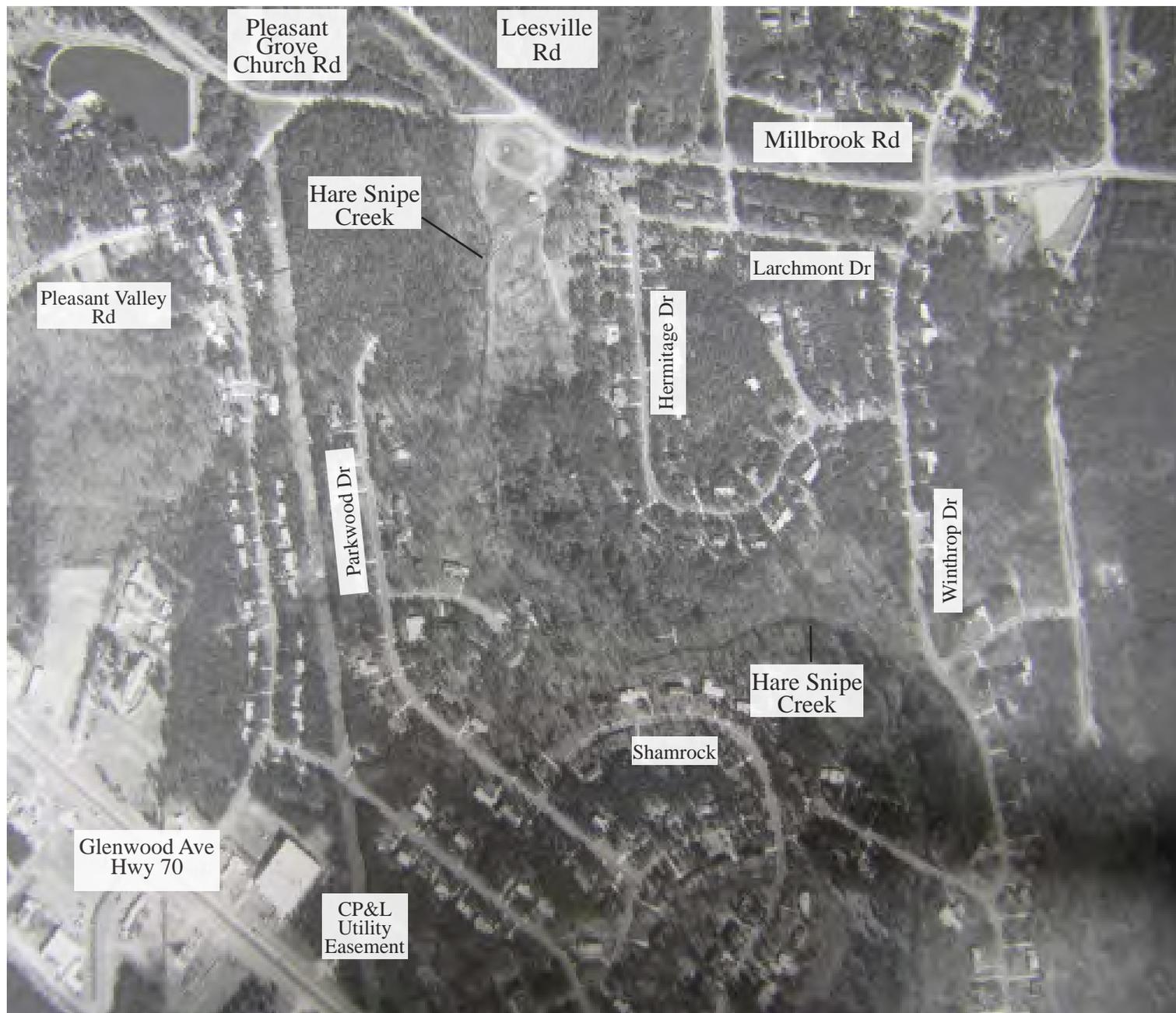
Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1965



US Department of Agriculture, BOP-5FF-112, Grid M-7, flown March 15, 1965

The northern portion of the property appears cleared in 1965, with a structure near the small branch of Hare Snipe Creek that flows west across the property. The southern portion appears wooded and undeveloped. The surrounding properties have become partially developed, with the addition of Winthrop Drive and Parkwood Drive.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1971



US Department of Agriculture, BOP-2MM-27, Grid M-7, flown February 23, 1971

The 1971 aerial photo of the Wooten Meadow vicinity shows the increase in residential development in this area of Raleigh. The Brookhaven neighborhood is expanded with the addition of Hermitage Dr and Larchmont Dr on the east side of the Wooten Meadow property, and Parkwood Dr on the west side.

Vicinity of Wooten Meadow property, 1988



The Wooten Meadow park property was donated to the City of Raleigh in 1996 to be used as a park and/or greenway. The park property consists of three adjoining parcels. At time of acquisition the property appeared much as in the aerial photo above. There was one structure on the property, a small horse barn located near the north end of the property near W. Millbrook Rd. The building was 800-1000 sq ft with wood construction and a masonite type siding. The northern 10 acres of the property was cleared, fenced and used as a horse pasture. The remainder of the property was reported as wooded. According to information provided by the previous property owner Mr. Wooten, prior to his purchase of the property in the 1960s the northern portion was owned by Edwards Farms and the southern portion was owned by Glen Forest Company, a residential development firm. Mr. Wooten stated that the only use of the property to his knowledge was as farmland and pasture. Further residential development in the area includes The Timbers apartment complex on the west side of Hare Snipe Creek, development north of Pleasant Valley Rd and Pleasant Grove Church Rd.

Wooten Meadow Site Description

The 20.5 acre site known as Wooten Meadow Park is located at **2801 W. Millbrook Road** at the intersection of Leesville Road and W. Millbrook Road in the Brookhaven Neighborhood in Northwest Raleigh. This park site is within the City's planning jurisdiction, in the Northwest Planning District, and within the Northwest Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) District. The site is zoned as Residential-4 (R-4) with a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District. A Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District regulates built environmental characteristics such as minimum lot size, maximum building height, and front yard setback.

Land use in the vicinity includes mostly large lot residential. *The Timbers* apartment complex borders the northwest portion of the park across Hare Snipe Creek (see map on next page). Millbrook Road runs along the northern border of the park. There is a residential neighborhood on the north side of Millbrook Road. Sidewalk and pedestrian crossing signals are in place at the road intersection, and the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway Trail is completed north of Wooten Meadow Park.

Wooten Meadow Park is a mostly undeveloped park site consisting of three contiguous parcels, all located on the east side of Hare Snipe Creek. A greenway easement is located on the west side of the Creek within property owned by the Timbers LLC. Interim land use in the park includes floodplain forest and an open field "managed" area. Dominant landscape features include Hare Snipe Creek and Public Utility easements along the west and east sides of the property.



Wooten Meadow Park sign at Millbrook Rd



Site amenities currently include a park sign, a small parking area, and a multi-use open field on the north side of the park.



North side of park, facing Millbrook Rd



Parking area with island



Entrance to fields

Wooten Meadow Park

The park was previously leased by the Capital Area Soccer League (CASL). The Wooten Meadow Hydrology map on page 50 includes an aerial photo of the park from approximately 2003, showing the full extent of the park used for organized soccer. In 2007, the CASL lease ended. Bollards were placed in the former soccer fields until a Master Plan could be developed for the park.



Wooten Meadow fields, 2005



Wooten Meadow fields, 2009

A vegetation buffer was created between neighboring houses on the east side of Wooten Meadow and the middle field area of the park, beginning in 2005. The extent of the vegetation buffer is shown on the Site Features map on page 37 of this report.



Residential vegetation buffer with a mix of evergreen trees and shrubs in 2005

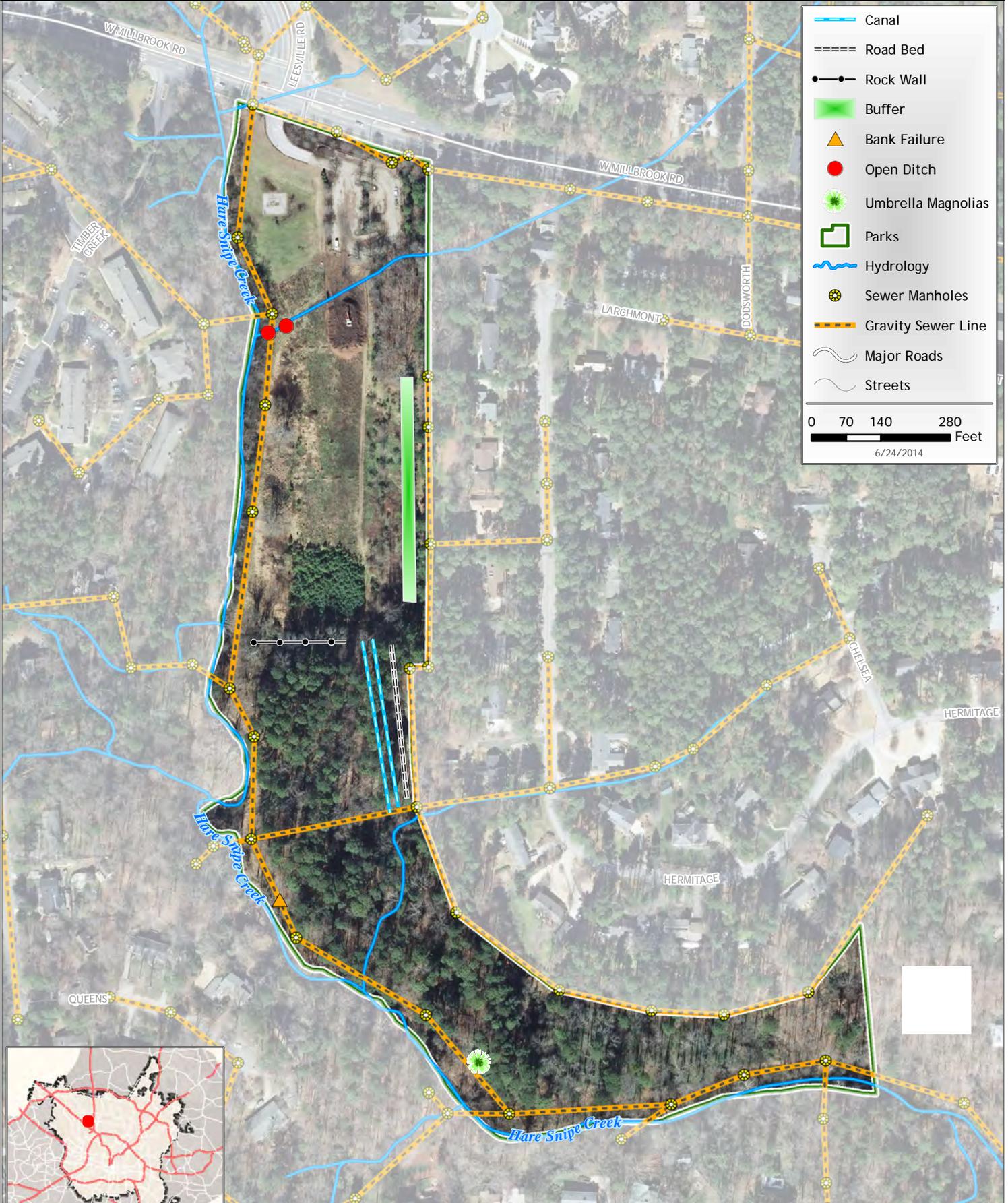


Vegetation buffer along east side of property, 2010



Tree stakes still remain on some of the larger trees in the planting area. Stakes should be removed after one growing season. It is best not to use stakes except when required, for example when conditions are windy. (*International Society of Arboriculture Planting Specifications*)

Wooten Meadow Site Features





Interim management of the park’s mid-field area involves mowing alternate sections of the field on a rotational basis, so that winter wildlife cover is available every year, and to provide interim pollinator habitat. Leaf and/or mulch storage is periodically an additional interim use of the site.



A path is generally mowed in front of the southern forested portion of the park. The photo above is taken from the eastern sewer easement, looking west toward Hare Snipe Creek.

Public Utility Easements

Wooten Meadow is located in a flood zone. Flood Zones depicted on the map on the following page are defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The map also shows the intended extent of the 50 foot Neuse River riparian buffer.

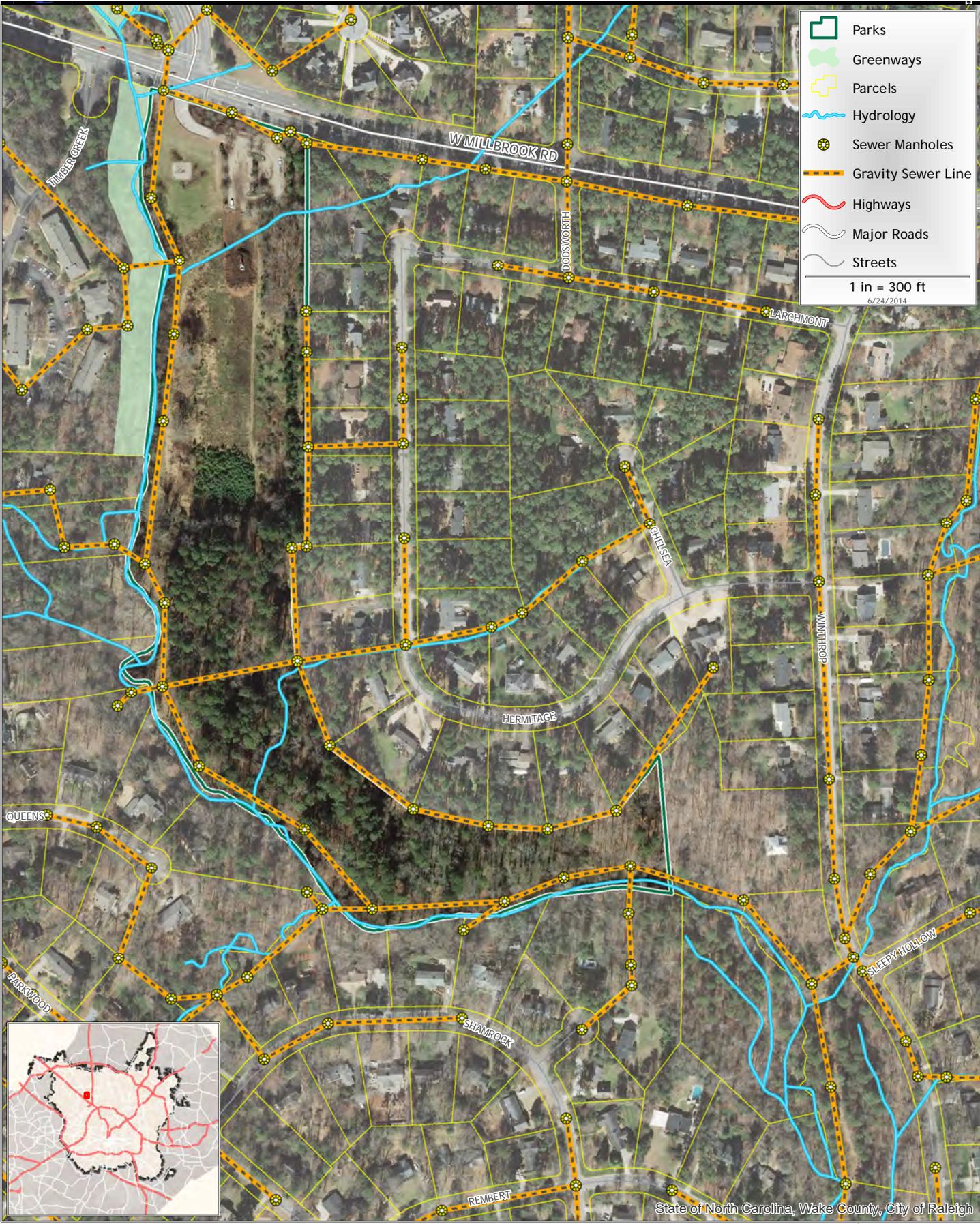
Sewer Easements

The Flood Zone and Sewer Easement map on the next page shows the extent of the City of Raleigh Public Utility easements on the Wooten Meadow property. Sewer easements exist on both the west and east side of the park. The sewer easements are maintained by the Public Utilities Department through mowing with a rotary cutter or brush hog to maintain low growing vegetation. Fire ants and invasive plants are dispersed throughout the sewer easements, as invasives are common in areas that have been disturbed.



The sewer easement along Hare Snipe Creek on the park's west property boundary was installed in 1970. There are very few trees established as a buffer between the sewer easement and the Creek. The Neuse River Riparian Buffer Rules would normally require at least the first 30 feet adjacent to the Creek (Zone 1) to be forested, however if the land use existed prior to the Buffer Rules adoption in 1997, the land use is "grandfathered" or exempt from the Rules, as long as the use continues unaltered. Grading and revegetating Zone 2 (the next 20 feet) is allowed provided that the health of the vegetation in Zone 1 is not compromised, the ground is stabilized and existing diffuse flow is maintained. Additional information on the stability and condition of the riparian buffer along Hare Snipe Creek is provided in the Water Resources section of this report, beginning on page 48.

Sewer Easements on Wooten Meadow and in vicinity





The 40-foot wide western sanitary sewer easement supports a 24 inch gravity sewer. Riprap has been added at various easement locations to increase stream bank stability.



A lateral sewer easement connects the 24-inch western sanitary sewer with an 8-inch main sewer line running along the eastern park boundary, crossing the park near the middle of the property.



The eastern sewer easement traverses several habitat types, from upland forest to floodplain. A portion of the easement follows what is potentially an old road bed. Several adjacent property owners on the east side of Wooten Meadow have fences erected. Park encroachment at this park is minimal. Park encroachment occurs when adjacent property owners use park property as their own yard, for example by dumping yard waste in the park, clearing park vegetation to expand their yard or modify their view, creating private paths into the park, or setting up a swingset on park property.

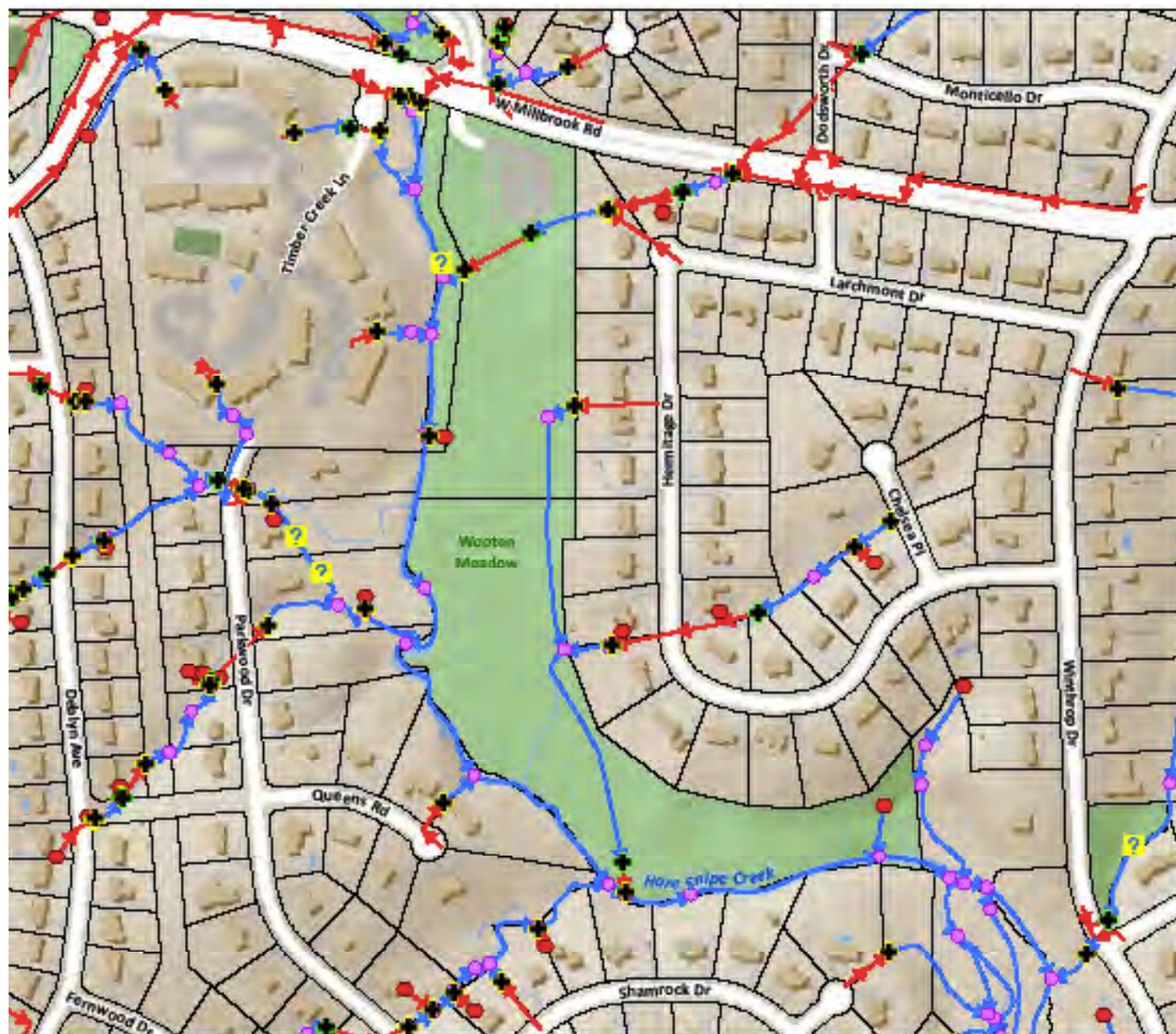


A gate is installed at a sewer easement extension intersection with Winthrop Drive. Photo above is from 2010, taken in late winter with meandering Hare Snipe Creek visible in the distance.

Stormwater Utilities

The map below indicates City of Raleigh stormwater features that convey storm runoff. The Department of Public Works designs and manages stormwater features on public property to control the flow of public stormwater, remove pollutants and capture, treat, store and then slowly release stormwater runoff downstream or into the ground. Stormwater features included on the map below include pipe inlets and outlets (symbolized by black crosses; inlets are green, outlets are yellow), stub points (red dot), break points (purple dots), pipes (red lines), and stormwater channels (blue lines). Stormwater channels can include natural surface waters, such as Hare Snipe Creek and its tributaries. Further detail on site hydrology is included beginning on page 48 of this report.

Wooten Meadow Stormwater Features



0 205 410 820 Feet
1 inch = 400 feet

Disclaimer:
RPS makes every effort to produce and publish the most current and accurate information possible. However, the maps are prepared for information purposes, and are NOT surveys. No warranty, expressed or implied, are provided for the data shown, its use, or its interpretation.

Adjacent to the Wooten Meadow Park property, on the west side of Hare Snipe Creek, is a greenway easement within the Timbers LLC property (see map on page 32).

Raleigh greenways are defined as linear, natural land areas. Some greenways may be suitable for **greenway trails**, while other greenways may not be suitable for trails and remain undeveloped to benefit the community as buffers, environmental preserves, or wildlife corridors.

Historically, the City of Raleigh acquired greenway **easements** rather than fee or title land ownership where greenways were desired. Easements conserve public space for *potential* greenway trails and provide environmental benefits. Greenway easements are in perpetuity and attached to a deed, therefore it transfers when properties are sold to the next owner. The City also owns “fee simple” parcels along some designated greenway corridors.

Greenway trails are constructed for public access within greenways (easements or fee simple- owned property) or within public utility easements.

Many greenway trails are constructed within City of Raleigh sewer easements. Most of these easements are located within riparian corridors. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources staff works closely with Raleigh Public Utilities to design greenway trails in a way that minimizes greenway trail and sewer line conflicts.

Inventory of Natural Resources: Soils, Water Resources, Flora and Fauna

Site investigations and inventory of natural resources of Wooten Meadow were conducted during May and October of 2009, March and July of 2010, and September 2013.

Soils of Wooten Meadow Park

The following soil data was created by the USGS and the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. Wooten Meadow is underlain by the Cecil soil association. This soil association is described in the *Wake County Soil Survey* as gently sloping to steep, deep, well-drained soils that have a subsoil of firm red clay; derived mostly from gneiss and schist. This soil association is described as being dissected by many streams that form a dendritic drainage pattern. The *Wake County Soil Survey* describes the major soils of this association to have moderate limitations to use as absorption fields for septic tanks, no special limitations if they are used for road construction or to support foundation footings for large buildings. Most of the soils in the Cecil association have been cultivated in the past, however by the time of the 1970 soil survey about 80% of the area was in forest and the remainder in either pasture or still cultivated. There are four soil mapping units within the property. Approximately 75% of Wooten Meadow is underlain by the hydric soil Cm.

A Wooten Meadow Soils Map is provided on the following page.

Cm **Chewacla soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes**

The Chewacla soil series consists of somewhat poorly drained soils on the flood plains of streams. A seasonally high water table is at a depth of about 1.5 feet. Natural fertility and organic matter content are low, infiltration is good. These soils are very acidic. The surface layer is sandy loam to silt loam. Surface runoff is slow. The hazard of flooding is severe, and the hazard of wetness is very severe.

ApD **Appling sandy loam, 10 to 15 percent slopes**

This soil is found on narrow side slopes bordering drainageways in the uplands. Erosion may be slight or moderate. The surface layer is sandy loam to sandy clay. The subsoil is firm clay loam to clay. In many areas pebbles and cobblestones are on and in the surface layer. Infiltration is fair to good, surface runoff is very rapid. The hazard of further erosion is very severe.

WmE **Wedowee sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes**

These soils are located on narrow side slopes bordering major drainageways, and are slightly to moderately eroded. The surface layer is sandy loam to sandy clay loam. The subsoil is firm sandy clay loam to clay loam. Infiltration is good to fair, surface runoff is very rapid, and susceptibility to further erosion is severe.

WkE **Wake soils 10 to 25 percent slopes**

These soils are on side slopes bordering drainage ways in the uplands. Their surface layer is loamy sand or gravelly loamy sand 2 to 10 inches thick. It is underlain with loamy sand 0 to 10 inches thick. Infiltration is good. Surface runoff is very rapid. Because of bedrock near the surface and slopes, these soils should be kept in forest.

Water Resources of Wooten Meadow

Wooten Meadow is located in the highly urbanized Hare Snipe Creek watershed of the Neuse River Basin. The Drainage Basin map on the following page shows the land area that drains or flows to Hare Snipe Creek or its tributaries. Hare Snipe Creek originates south of Strickland Rd, between Leesville Rd and Ray Rd, and flows south into Lake Lynn. Hare Snipe Creek was a dominant landscape feature on historic maps of Wake County. Research has indicated historic modifications of the watershed, including evidence that the area is a relic mill pond site (see page 13). Lake Lynn dam was constructed in 1976 to dam Hare Snipe Creek for flood control. The dam created Lake Lynn, which is now used for both flood control and recreation. Hare Snipe Creek continues flowing south out of Lake Lynn, eventually flowing into Crabtree Creek.

Hare Snipe Creek is subject to state and federal jurisdictional regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and North Carolina's Neuse River Riparian Buffer Rules. Hare Snipe Creek, like most urban streams in Wake County, is listed as *impaired* by the USEPA. *Impaired* waters are defined as those that cannot support one or more of their state designated uses because of water quality impairment. The state *Designated Use* of Hare Snipe Creek is **Aquatic Life Propagation and Survival** and the EPA *Designated Use Group* is **Aquatic Life Harvesting**.

The *Cause of Impairment* for Hare Snipe Creek is **Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos, Cause Unknown - Impaired Benthos**. The benthic community normally expected in a healthy waterway is unhealthy, reduced, or absent, and the exact cause of the problem is unknown.

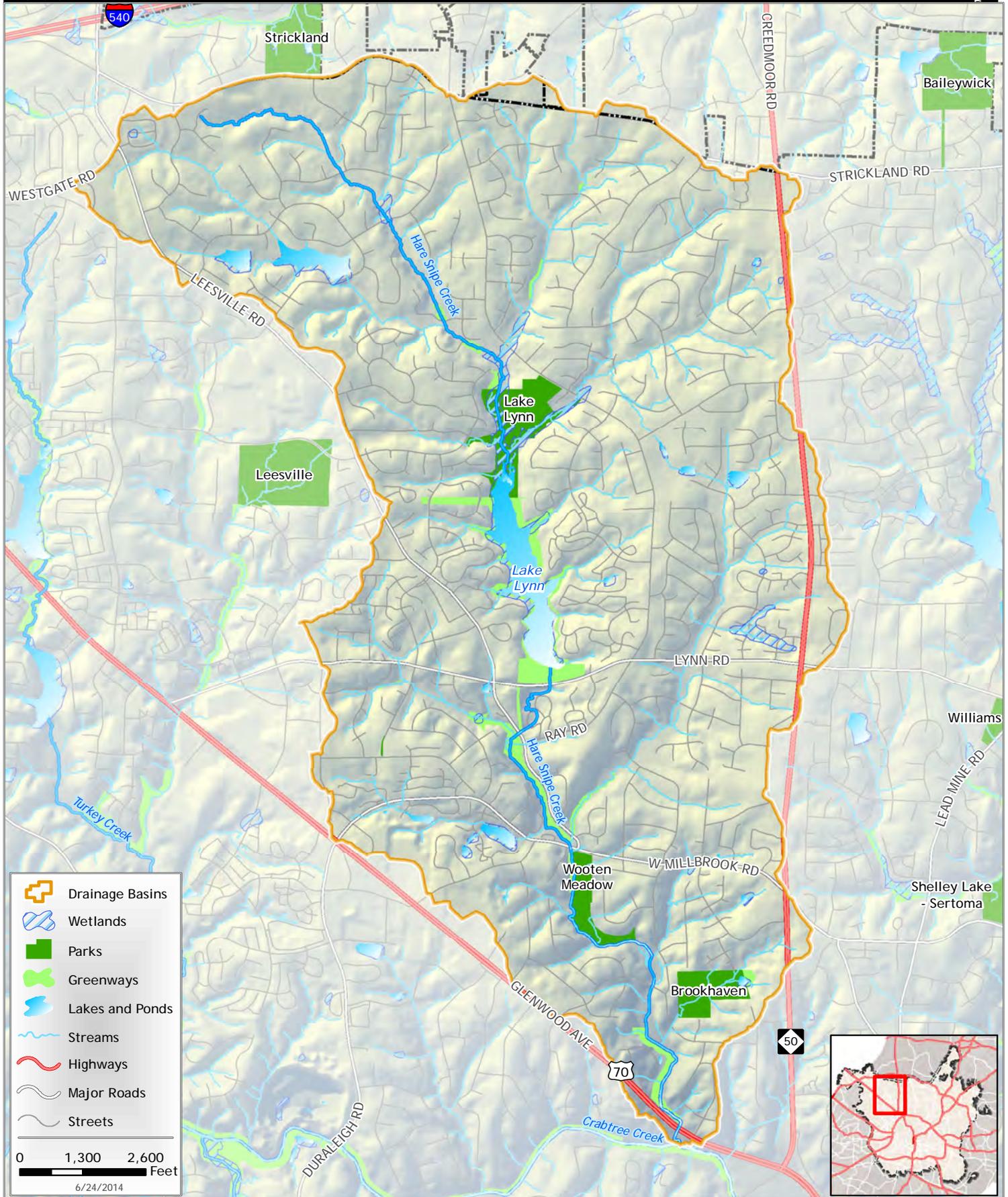
The benthic community involves aquatic organisms known as *benthos* which live on, in, or near the bottom of water bodies. Benthos include animals such as clams, snails, worms, crayfish, and the larvae of many aquatic insects (such as dragonflies, mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies), primary producers (such as algae and aquatic plants), and decomposers (bacteria, fungi) are involved in the recycling of energy and essential nutrients. Some of the benthos spend part of their life cycle in other habitats, such as riparian uplands.

Large benthic animals are referred to as macroinvertebrates. They consume algae, coarse particulate matter (such as fallen leaves) and its associated fungi and bacteria, fine suspended organic matter, and prey organisms. Macroinvertebrates are an important part of the food supply for fish and other aquatic animals. Macroinvertebrates are often used as water quality indicators because they are sensitive to changes in chemical and physical conditions.

When the benthos community is impaired, the ecological and biological integrity of the entire system is impacted.

Hare Snipe Drainage Basin

RALEIGH
Parks
Recreation
and Cultural
Resources
GIS Unit



Wooten Meadow Park

The main branch of Hare Snipe Creek is a perennial stream that flows along the western boundary of the park, with two first-order tributaries flowing across park property into Hare Snipe. Perennial streams have a well-defined channel that contains water year round under normal rainfall conditions. The tributary on the north side of the park is piped across the managed field, but is visible on the map below and discussed in detail on page 57. The southern tributary flows into Hare Snipe in the forested portion of the park. The main channel of Hare Snipe flows south, and then somewhat abruptly flows east about midway through the park, hence the odd shape of the park's south parcel. Many urban streams such as Hare Snipe are very "flashy", meaning water levels rise very quickly during rain events.





Hare Snipe creek is deeply entrenched and straight as it enters the north side of the park. Barbed wire fencing left over from when the property was a horse pasture, still runs along the east side of the creek, and is embedded in the trees in some places.



The main Hare Snipe Creek channel is quite picturesque, particularly along the southern end of the park where the topography on the west and south side of the creek is steep and the channel meanders.



Hare Snipe Creek has well developed riffle-pool-run complexes. Several riffles and rapids within the lower reaches of the creek mask the sound of road traffic. Natural exposed rock and wildflowers along the creek bank add stream features that are not overly common in Raleigh.



The stream bed substrate is a diverse mixture of pebbles, cobbles and sand. Vegetation along portions of the creek bank is moderately diverse, discussed in more detail under the Flora Section.



Major stream bank failures occur in several locations along Hare Snipe Creek adjacent to park property. Streams in North Carolina are under the jurisdiction of NC DENR Division of Water Resources and the US Army Corps of Engineers, so the City of Raleigh has limited options for stream bank management even on park property. The western park property line runs generally down the center of the creek.



This large tree fell in September 2013, near the location of the bank failure shown in the top photo.



Tree root depth and density along Hare Snipe is unstable in some locations, sometimes leading to tree collapse, with large organic debris such as logs and tree limbs being deposited in the stream channel. Large piles of organic debris can lead to debris jams, which can impact stream bank stability, channel development, and flow.



Trash and other solid waste (often deposited in stream channels during surface flow from storm events) can contribute to debris jams.



Significant bank erosion occurs along the creek, particularly in steep slope areas.

Tributaries of Hare Snipe Creek

Two first order stream channels (tributaries of Hare Snipe Creek) cross park property (shown on the Hydrology Map on page 50). The northern tributary begins in the neighborhood north of Millbrook Road, flows through the woods east of the park, and then is piped across the majority of the managed field section of the park.



Northern tributary stream channel, eastern area of park property, before being piped across the managed field (photo taken near southeast corner of parking lot).



Drainage ditch/intermittent stream along center of horse pasture

Image of northern tributary above is from Phase 1 report, 1995



Current location of northern tributary pipe outlet



During the growing season, the visibility of the northern tributary pipe outlet is blocked.



The southern intermittent stream branch runs through the eastern sewer easement, then flows south and through the western sewer easement to join the main channel of Hare Snipe Creek. The majority of the park is within the floodplain of Hare Snipe Creek, and inundated areas are scattered throughout the Wooten Meadow property, particularly in winter months. The green plants visible in the photo above are invasive chinese privet, abundant along the eastern easement.



Southern intermittent tributary as it crosses the western sewer easement as a dry channel during the growing season, a characteristic of the stream's intermittent nature.



The riparian area around the southern tributary is particularly wet, and regularly has standing water. Plants growing near the tributary have adaptations to hydric conditions, such as epicormic sprouting, visible in the photo above.



Scouring, standing water and ephemeral flow channels occur throughout the park's riparian area, indicating the active nature of the Hare Snipe Creek floodplain.



Debris accumulation from strong stormwater flow is particularly strong in the northern portion of the forested area, where hydrology has been altered.



The southern portion of the park is more natural hydrologically. Winter inventory for salamanders is conducted in the ephemeral wet areas of the forest.



Wetland conditions are visible in the riparian zone of Hare Snipe Creek, particularly in the southwestern portion of the managed area of the park, nearest the Creek. Saturated conditions, hydric soils, obligate wetland plants, hummocks, and nesting Canada Geese occur in this area.



The red gate leading to the western sewer easement is visible in the upper right corner of the lower photo.

Natural hydrologic processes have been altered within the park, particularly on the northern parcel. Numerous artificial ditches from past agricultural land use, disturbance of riparian vegetation, and soil compaction all contribute to altered hydrology.



Drainage ditch in northern wooded area



Altered hydrology along eastern sewer easement

Groundwater

The location of the Wooten Meadow property appears to be situated within an area dominated by metamorphic rocks of the Raleigh Belt. The rocks at this general location would consist primarily of injected gneisses such as biotite gneiss and schist. The hydrogeological system in the area of the subject property includes both the surficial sediments and underlying bedrock. Groundwater in sediments is present in pores between individual sediment grains. In bedrock, groundwater is present predominantly in horizontal and subhorizontal unloading fractures, and in near, vertical stress fractures. Groundwater depths are variable and generally approach ground surface near streams and rivers. Based on the historical groundwater flow characteristics in this area, groundwater flow typically mirrors surface topography.

There is a significant groundwater seep near the southeastern property boundary, as well as groundwater at or near the surface in various locations throughout the floodplain. Because the majority of the park is underlain by hydric Chewacla soils, the water table can be close to the soil surface at least part of the year. Vegetation in the seep area includes lady fern, royal fern, lizard's tail.



Groundwater seep near southeast area of park

Flora Resources of Wooten Meadow Park

Flora inventory at Wooten Meadow began in 2009 and will be ongoing as staff time and resources allow. Species naming follows *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States* by Alan S. Weakley, November 2012. A detailed plant list for the entire site is included in Appendix D. Diversity of native flora on this site is moderate to good, compared to other urban parks, despite the presence of invasives throughout the park.

Wooten Meadow includes a variety of forest types, including Piedmont Dry-Mesic Oak and Hardwood Forest, Dry-Mesic Oak Pine Forest, Piedmont Deciduous Mesic Forest, and Piedmont Bottomland Forest. Levee Forest is located on the deposits adjacent to the Hare Snipe Creek channel. River birch (*Betula nigra*) is common along the creek bank.

14.24 acres (of 20.5 total acres) on the property are underlain by hydric Chewacla soils. The Chewacla soil series are poorly drained and intermittently flooded. Bottomland Forest is located on the floodplain ridges and terraces of the creek. The floodplain canopy is dominated by a mix of flood-tolerant species, such as Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), Swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Black willow (*Salix nigra*), and Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Some of the green ash are quite large, and will create temporary large canopy gaps if attacked by the incoming invasive pest Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Understory trees include Northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Musclemwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*).

Bottomland Forests usually have a well developed herb layer. Unfortunately, much of the floodplain and adjacent upland forests are covered with invasive non-native English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Vegetation is moderately diverse, however many native species have just a few individual plants trying to maintain a foothold within an abundance of invasive plants.



Invasive English ivy carpets the ground and grows up the tree trunks in several areas of the park

The northernmost section of the southern wooded parcel is a Coniferous Cultivated Plantation, consisting mostly of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). The extent of pine throughout the park is visible on the Topography map on page 43. Pine seedlings are abundant in the area adjacent to the woodline, and are a favorite of beaver (see photo on page 77).



Forest canopy dominated by loblolly pine, facing south



Some of the pine trees are quite large.

The managed sewer easements on the western and eastern boundaries are maintained by mowing to control woody vegetation. Native herbaceous species within the easements include Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), Green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Jumpseed (*Persicaria virginiana*), Giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), Camphorweed (*Pluchea camphorata*), Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*), Water hoarhound (*Lycopus virginicus*), and many more. Portions of the easements are dominated by invasive plants such as Marsh dayflower (*Murdania keisak*) and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*).



Lateral sewer easement, fall 2012

There are two small forested areas in the park underlain by non-hydric soils. The steepest area along the northeast side of the property has Appling sandy loam with slopes of 10-15%. This forested area is a Piedmont Dry-Mesic Oak Hardwood Forest. Beech, oak and hickory trees are dominant on this hill.



Hardwood forest, northeast section of park, facing Millbrook Road



Oaks, beech, and hickories growing on hill with sandy loam soil

The steep southeastern area of the park is underlain by Wake Soils with 10-15 percent slopes. This area contains a few uncommon mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and American witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*).



Mature forest underlain by Wake soils in southeastern portion of park

Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) occurs throughout the Wooten Meadow property, and though it can be a troublesome plant in public areas where it comes into contact with humans, poison ivy is a native plant that is beneficial to wildlife and has other conservation values. Removal of plants occurring on park or greenway property without permission is unlawful. Parks Maintenance staff make every effort to maintain public areas of developed parks to control poison ivy and other nuisances.

Rare and Protected Plant Species of North Carolina

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP), North Carolina Plant Conservation Program (NCPCP), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) work cooperatively to ensure the survival of North Carolina's diverse flora. The City of Raleigh works with these partner agencies to inventory and conserve rare plants, important natural areas, and rare species habitats within the City of Raleigh.

The NCNHP maintains a List of Rare Plant Species for plant taxa native to North Carolina that are officially recognized by federal or state agencies as protected or otherwise rare. Some plants are rare but are not under any legal protection.

Plants are evaluated by both a federal status and a state status. Federally listed species are protected by the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*. US Fish and Wildlife is the federal agency responsible for listing and protection of endangered and threatened species. Federally protected plants are categorized as *Endangered*, *Threatened*, *Candidate*, or *Federal Species of Concern*. The Endangered Species Act requires that any action likely to adversely affect a federally protected species is subject to review by USFWS.

The NC Plant Conservation Program (NCPCP), a unit of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is the state agency responsible for listing and protection of North Carolina's endangered and threatened plants. State listed species are protected under provisions of the *North Carolina Plant Protection and Conservation Act of 1979*. Removal of listed plants from the wild is illegal without appropriate permits from the NCPCP.

State listed plant categories are *Endangered (E)*, *Threatened (T)*, *Candidate (C)*, *Special Concern (SC)*, *Significantly Rare (SR)*, and *Watch (W)*. Significantly Rare and Watch species currently have no legal protection, and the designation is used to convey information about the species rarity in the state or region.

Additionally, plant species may be locally uncommon within the City of Raleigh Parks, Greenways, and Open Space system. City of Raleigh staff, partner agencies, and local Subject Matter Experts assist with inventory and monitoring of these species.

Federally Listed Plants in Wake County

Michaux sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) is a federally protected plant known to occur in Wake County and listed as *Endangered*. Michaux sumac grows in sandy or rocky open woods on basic soils. City of Raleigh staff has conducted a thorough survey for Michaux sumac on the Wooten Meadow property. No specimens of this endangered plant were found, and the Wooten Meadow property does not appear to support the type of habitat preferred by Michaux sumac.

The USFWS lists the following plants known to occur in Wake County as Federal Species of Concern (FSC): Bog Spicebush (*Lindera subcoriacea*), Virginia least trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum*), and Carolina Birdfoot-trefoil (*Acmispon helleri*). Sweet Pinesap (*Monotropis odorata*) and Grassleaf Arrowhead (*Sagittaria weatheriana*) occurred historically in Wake County. None of these plant species are likely to have suitable conditions available on the Wooten Meadow property, and no specimens of these plants have been observed on the site.

State Listed Plants in Wake County

Plants from the *List of Rare Plant Species of North Carolina 2012 (revised February 27, 2013)* that occur in Wake County in known locations, and plants with historic records in Wake County that have not been documented in 20 years (with some expectation of rediscovery), are tallied below. The tally does not include rare plants that are not well known and do not yet have adequate inventory and may occur in Wake County, and rare plants with known populations in nearby or adjacent counties that may also occur in Wake County.

Twelve plant species listed as **Endangered** in the State of North Carolina are found in Wake County (six of the twelve are historic records). Piedmont quillwort (*Isoetes piedmontana*), Swamp saxifrage (*Micranthes pensylvanica*), Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii* which is also federally endangered), Low Wild-petunia (*Ruellia humilis*), Veined skullcap (*Scutellaria nervosa*), and Virginia least trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum*, a Federal Species of Concern) are all state Endangered plants with known populations in Wake County. No specimens of these plants have been observed at Wooten Meadow Park.

Nine plant species listed as **Threatened** in North Carolina are found in Wake County (two are historic records). Douglass's Bittercress (*Cardamine douglassii*), Granite flatsedge (*Cyperus granitophilus*), Indian psychic (*Gillenia stipulata*), Bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), Small's portulaca (*Portulaca smallii*), Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), and Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium reflexum*) are all state Threatened plants with known populations in Wake County. No specimens of these plants have been observed at Wooten Meadow Park. There are records of Indian psychic occurring within the vicinity of Wooten Meadow, however these records have a low mapping accuracy. The habitat for Indian psychic is Piedmont forests and open woods, mainly over mafic rocks.

Four plant species listed as **Special Concern** in North Carolina are found in Wake County (two are historic records). Carolina Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Acemispson helleri*, a Federal Species of Concern) and Appalachian Golden-banner (*Thermopsis mollis*) are both state species of Special Concern with known populations in Wake County. There is a record of Appalachian Golden-banner within one mile of the Wooten Meadow property, but the record is of low or very low mapping accuracy and has not been mapped directly on the property, but within the vicinity. Appalachian Golden-banner is a yellow spring-flowering legume that grows on dry slopes and ridges.

Twenty-one plant species listed as **Significantly Rare** in North Carolina are found in Wake County (six are historic records). Water purslane (*Didiplis diandra*), Large Witch-alder (*Fothergilla major*), Multiflowered mud-plantain (*Heteranthera multiflora*), Earle's blazing star (*Liatris squarrulosa*), Bog Spicebush (*Lindera subcoriacea*, also a Federal Species of Concern), Glade milkvine (*Matelea decipiens*), Sadie Price's Yellow Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis priceae*), Horsetail Crown Grass (*Paspalum fluitans*), Seneca snakeroot (*Polygala senega*), Heller's Rabbit-Tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium helleri*), and Virginia mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) are all Significantly Rare plants with known populations in Wake County. No specimens of these plants have been observed at Wooten Meadow Park.

Fifty-eight plant species currently listed on the *North Carolina Plant Watch List* are found in Wake County (Twenty-four are historic records). To date, the only **Watch** species observed at Wooten Meadow is Sweet Bay (*Magnolia virginiana*). Sweet Bay is in *Watch Category 6 - Regionally Rare*. Regionally Rare Watch plants include species which are rare in one region of North Carolina, and uncommon to abundant in another region. Regionally rare plant populations are important for protection of genetic variation and long term viability of species. Sweet Bay is common in the NC Coastal Plain region, but uncommon in the Piedmont.

Summary of Rare and Protected Plant Species Occuring at or near Wooten Meadow Park (according to both the NHP List of Rare Plants and the City of Raleigh Inventory)

Sweet Bay, Umbrella Magnolia, Mountain Laurel

Tree Conservation Ordinance: The City of Raleigh Tree Conservation Ordinance is designed to protect trees during pre-development of a site by defining allowable tree removal activity. During site development tree preservation will be required through the establishment and protection of Tree Conservation Areas (TCAs). At present, four types of Primary TCAs must be identified and established wherever they occur on a site: tree protection areas required in Resource Management Districts and conditional-use zoning or re-zoning tree protection areas, Champion Trees, Neuse River Riparian Buffer Zone 2, and slopes greater than or equal to 45% adjacent to or within floodways.

The following tree removals and disturbance are not allowed without a Tree Conservation Permit:

- Champion trees
- Trees in Resource Management Districts
- Trees in natural protective yards
- Timber harvests
- Trees related to installation of a use, structure, driveway, or facility improvement
- Trees related to a subdivision or a site plan
- More than 15 trees on parcels greater than or equal to 2 acres in size
- Healthy trees greater than or equal to ten inches dbh within the following protected buffer areas: 50 feet of a thoroughfare, 32 feet of a vacant property line, 65 feet of any other property line including non-thoroughfare roadways

At the time of this report, TCA requirements for Wooten Meadow Park (zoned R-10 and) will be 10% of acres, or approximately 2 acres. TCAs are often not dedicated until the site development phase and will need to be re-evaluated at that time.

Control and removal of non-native invasive tree species to promote the vigor and diversity of native trees is appropriate under “Urban Forestry” practices within the context of the Tree Conservation Ordinance.

Invasive Plants

A variety of invasive plants occur throughout the Wooten Meadow property. Some of the invasives are typical urban landscape plants that spread through birds or other wildlife dispersing the seed nearby, such as Leatherleaf Mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*), Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina* species), Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), and Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*). Some invasive plants have spread to the park site from adjacent property by runners, spreading root systems, or yard waste dumping, such as Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), Day lilies (*Hemerocallis*), Monkeygrass (*Liriope*), and English Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

Yard waste dumping can introduce invasive plants, pests, and plant diseases into the forest.

English ivy is quite extensive in the park and on adjacent property, and is one of the most problematic and challenging invasive plants in forested ecosystems. In some cases, English ivy was planted with gusto by garden clubs and plant enthusiasts in the 1960s and 70s.

English ivy spreads initially along the ground - outcompeting almost all other ground vegetation and inhibiting tree regeneration. As it spreads it grows up tree trunks - occupying both the midstory and eventually even the upper canopy layer. As it grows vertically, it also starts to produce seed, which is eaten by birds and then spreads readily to new areas. English ivy will eventually destroy the trees it grows on.

Hand removal of ivy from tree trunks is possible but time consuming and is done by volunteer groups in high value forests or with high value yard trees. It needs to be removed from tree trunks on a regular basis, as it will continue to thrive on the forest floor.

Some steep highly eroding soils, such as those along some of the steepest Creek Banks along Hare Snipe must be carefully evaluated for soil stability and vegetation. English ivy can provide valuable soil stabilization.

Invasive plant control is complex, costly, and time consuming, especially where invasives are well established with a very urban, active stream system that creates regular site disturbance and brings in a continual source of invasive plants.

Invasive plant control at Wooten Meadow requires careful evaluation in the context of other park and greenway sites, presence of rare plants or plant communities, high value trees, steep slope stabilization, visibility and public safety, etc.

Invasive plant control is most effective when initiated early, for example if there are just a few individual plants.

At Wooten Meadow, English ivy should be removed from cultural or historical site features as long as they will not be damaged by invasive plant removal efforts.

Wildlife and Habitat of Wooten Meadow Park

Wildlife using Wooten Meadow are typical urban wildlife. Habitat consists of upland forest, floodplain forest and the aquatic habitat and riparian corridor of Hare Snipe Creek. Pollinator habitat is available within the sewer easements and in the northern meadow. The park and greenway provide an important wildlife habitat corridor from Lake Lynn to Crabtree Creek and beyond.

Wildlife sightings and signs observed during site investigations are recorded in Appendix E. Water fowl have been observed in the standing water of the floodplain, woodpeckers have been observed utilizing standing dead trees, and white tailed deer have been observed throughout the property. Raccoon tracks are abundant in the stream area. Snakes and a variety of amphibians have been observed.

Beaver

Beaver inhabit various areas within the Hare Snipe Creek watershed, including the Wooten Meadow property. Beaver impacts to the Wooten Meadow site are generally minor, but have occasionally been more extreme. Beavers are found where preferred foods are in good supply and there is a year-round source of water. They live along rivers and streams, in lakes, marshes and even roadside ditches that have adequate year-round water flow. Beavers living on water bodies such as large rivers or lakes that maintain a constant water level, do not build dams. Beavers can manipulate their own environment to increase food abundance and improve access to their favorite food. In areas where deep, calm water is not available beavers can build dams across streams to slow the flow of water and create a pond behind the dam. Beavers build dams to create deep water for access to their food supply, protection from predators, and to provide underwater entrances to their den.



Downed wood provides important wildlife habitat and is abundant in the forest and within Hare Snipe Creek.

Beaver are large aquatic mammals that live in colonies of around 4-8 related beavers. They live in a variety of aquatic habitats, and have a relatively long life span, typically living 10 years in the wild. They are territorial and resist new beaver moving into the area. Young beavers are commonly displaced from the colony shortly after they become mature, at about 2 yrs old. They often move to another area to begin a new colony.

Beaver were trapped to near extinction by the late 1890s to meet the demand for beaver pelts. From 1939 to the 1950s, the predecessor of the NC Wildlife Resource Commission initiated efforts to restock and manage beaver in North Carolina to meet the continued public demand. Beaver were eventually re-established throughout North Carolina and are now common in many areas, including urban settings.

Bank dens

Beaver are most active at night, from late afternoon to shortly after daybreak, but can also be seen during the day. They live in lodges or bank dens, where they sleep, raise their young, and sometimes store food. Both bank dens and lodges consist of one or more underwater entrances, a feeding area, and a dry nest den. It can be difficult to locate bank dens. They may be covered with mud, sticks, and rocks, and may have tree limbs, branch cuttings and plant debris around them. Bank dens may be located under stumps or logs. Beaver repair minor den cave-ins when part of the bank collapses by piling sticks and mud on top of the hole. Beavers often have a series of dens in case one den becomes unsuitable. Beavers establish runs or trails which they habitually use while traveling from their shelter to the dam or feeding areas. They also create slides where they enter and leave the water. Slides are 15 to 20 inches wide, at right angles to the shoreline, and have a slicked down or muddy appearance.

Beaver Feeding Habits

The size and species of trees the beaver cuts is highly variable. Beavers don't actually eat wood, only the cambium, a soft tissue close to the tree surface where new wood and bark grow. They especially like the cambium from fast-growing trees such as pine, sweetgum, and poplar. When beaver fell a tree, they will first eat the bark and buds off, then cut up branches and any sections of the trunk they can carry for use in their dams or lodges. Sometimes beaver will just strip the bark off a standing tree. If they remove bark from the entire circumference of the tree trunk, the tree becomes girdled and will die. Some beaver will girdle large pines and sweetgums because they like the resin that seeps out of the girdled area.

Beavers winter diet consists mainly of woody material such as shrubs, saplings, and branches. They may create an underwater food cache of edible branches near their winter den. Beaver food caches look like brush piles located in the water but branches will have the bark chewed off. Preferred winter foods include sweet gum, ash, willows, poplar, pines and fruit trees.

During spring and summer, beavers depend less on trees and instead relish aquatic plants and lush tender green shoots of terrestrial plants. Some of their favorite foods include water lily tubers, clover, and apples but they will eat leaves, twigs, and bark of most plant species that occur near water.



Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) felled by beaver along Hare Snipe Creek in September 2013. Notice the large girdled tree on the opposite creek bank.

Colony Expansion

Beaver are like many aquatic creatures, quick and agile in the water, but clumsy on land. Beaver prefer to find food close to their habitat, so they can quickly get into the water if predators or threats appear. Beaver will extend their foraging as food supplies dwindle, but longer trips increase the beaver's exposure to predators, and the time it takes to reach the food source. Beaver will travel 300 feet or more from a pond or stream to forage for food. Foraging levels are most intense during late fall as beaver prepare for winter. Beavers will use and expand a pond area until the food supplies are exhausted, usually up to ten years or more. When an area's food supply has been exhausted, the beaver will migrate to a new home. They will also look for new areas with suitable habitat as a beaver colony grows larger. Once beavers have become abundant in a watershed, periodic reinvasions of suitable aquatic habitat can be expected to occur.

Benefits of Beaver

Beaver create beneficial wildlife habitat for a variety of species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals such as the river otter. The wetlands created by beaver provide foraging areas for bats, owls and hawks. Flooding and large tree girdling creates standing dead trees which are important for cavity nesters and insectivores. Fallen logs create habitat for reptiles and amphibians. To enhance wildlife benefits, bat boxes can be placed close to rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, or other permanent water sources where insects are abundant. Beaver wetlands improve water quality by absorbing dissolved nutrients, processing organic wastes, and detoxifying runoff such as heavy metals and pesticides. Beaver ponds act as a reservoir to impound and store water, therefore reducing erosion and down stream flooding. The stored water is released slowly, to better maintain stream flows during droughts. Beaver ponds also recharge our drinking water aquifers and stabilize the water table. Beaver wetlands add diversity to the landscape, and provide human recreation and education opportunities.

Conflicts/ Beaver Damage

In some cases the beaver ponds have been established for many years. In other cases, the impacts are new and occur where there is existing human use of an area, such as greenway trails. Beaver damage to humans is primarily a result of dam building, flooding, and tree cutting. Damage includes timber loss, loss of landscape plants, crop loss, flooded roads, houses and property, destroyed bridges and drain pipes. Dam building and the subsequent flooding of new areas can be the biggest complaint. Most vegetation can survive longer periods of flooding in winter, but trees and plants can die within two weeks in spring or summer.



Small pine trees on the Wooten Meadow property were chewed by beaver in February 2010. Pine trees regenerate very quickly and are one of the first tree species to grow in an abandoned field.

Beaver Damage Prevention and Control Methods

Once beaver colonies become well established over a large area, achieving control is difficult and costly. State regulations in NC determine that it is unlawful to open or damage a beaver lodge without a permit from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Landowners whose property is or has been damaged by beaver may take beaver on their property anytime by any lawful method without obtaining a permit. It is unlawful to relocate beaver to a new location.

Exclusion techniques include fencing small critical areas such as culverts, drains or other structures, and installing barriers around important trees or landscape areas.

Habitat Modification

1. Continually destroying dams will sometimes cause a colony or beavers to move to another site. Destruction of beaver dams alone does not make the area unattractive for beavers. If you destroy the dam without eliminating the beaver they will rebuild, often starting the same day. They will use some new trees for repairs and this may accelerate the damage you were trying to stop in the first place. Removal of a beaver dam that has been in place for more than a few years will release a sudden surge of water and silt downstream. The breaching of a beaver dam and the subsequent release of a large volume of water, silt and debris may have undesirable impacts. A flood event could occur in the area, or the released debris could plug road culverts. Complete removal of a large dam may require precautions to ensure public safety and the protection of wildlife habitat and private property downstream.

2. Install a structural device to maintain a lower pond level. Levelers, or Flow devices are systems that prevent or control beaver damming activity to control beaver-related flooding problems. After placement of the flow device, check the beaver pond drains at least once a month to ensure the desired water levels are maintained. Always leave at least 1/3 to 1/2 of the pond undrained during drawdown, as overdraining may cause the beaver to seek new areas. Drain ponds to a level of 1 to 2 feet annually to promote natural emergent vegetation and productive moist-soil areas. Remove drains and allow water to stand from November to February when the trees are dormant, to provide feeding and resting areas for wintering ducks. Delay pond drawdowns until after July 1 in ponds with nesting wood ducks.

Trapping is one of the most common control techniques used in North Carolina. Non-target wildlife can sustain damage caused by Conibear traps, the type of traps typically used to trap beaver in North Carolina.



Beaver dam in Hare Snipe Creek, north side of Wooten Meadow Park, September 2013



The beaver dam shown on the previous page blocked stream flow, causing Hare Snipe Creek to flow over its banks during a large storm event. Portions of the creek bank collapsed, causing significant bank failure on the northwest park boundary.



The photo above shows a new hole in the ground in the western sewer easement near the beaver dam. The hole may be a beaver bank den that collapsed after the large storm event and subsequent creek bank failure shown above.



Vegetation in the riparian buffer is flattened and indicates the direction of surface water flow after beavers built a dam in Hare Snipe Creek.



Western easement gate in Sept 2013 after damage from beaver dam in the Creek.

Rare and Protected Animal Species of North Carolina

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP), North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), and Scientific Councils consisting of biologists with considerable knowledge of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, freshwater fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans, work cooperatively to develop and maintain the Natural Heritage Program *List of Rare Animal Species of North Carolina*. Animal species on the list are endangered, threatened, or otherwise occur in small or unknown numbers in North Carolina. The City of Raleigh works with the NCNHP and the NCWRC to evaluate park and greenway projects for potential impacts to listed animals or their habitats.

The NCNHP maintains the *List of Rare Animal Species of North Carolina* to provide a tool for determining priority natural areas and animals for protection, determining priorities for inventory, and for environmental assessment and land management purposes. Updates to the rare species list occur on a regular basis.

Federally listed animal species are protected by the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, and are under the jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Federal Status categories are Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, and Federal Species of Concern. The Endangered Species Act requires that any action likely to adversely affect a federally protected species is subject to review by USFWS.

State listed animal species are protected by state law through the *1987 General Statute, Article 25, Chapter 113 Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Wildlife Species of Special Concern*, under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). State Status categories are Endangered (E), Threatened (T), and Special Concern (SC) species of vertebrates (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and freshwater fishes), and invertebrates (mollusks and crustaceans).

NCNHP also collects data for rare species under the categories of Significantly Rare (SR) and Watch List (W). The majority of these species receive no special legal protection, and the designation is used to convey information about the species rarity in the region.

State law does not provide formal protection of invertebrate groups other than mollusks and crustaceans, however the Natural Heritage Program List of Rare Animal Species does track other invertebrate groups under the Significantly Rare (SR) and the Watch List (W) category, such as butterflies, dragonflies, and macro-invertebrates often used as indicators of water quality. Certain categories of invertebrates are no longer tracked by NCNHP due to lack of data and scarcity of biologists working with these groups to provide the data needed to update the lists.

Animal species may also be locally uncommon within the City of Raleigh Parks, Greenways, and Open Space system. City of Raleigh Staff, partner agencies such as Audubon, and local Subject Matter Experts assist with inventory and monitoring of locally uncommon species.

Federally Listed Animal Species in Wake County

Currently, only one animal occurring in Wake County is federally protected as endangered through the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*: Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmodonta heterodon*). The Endangered Species Act requires that any action likely to adversely affect a federally protected species is subject to review by USFWS.

The Dwarf wedgemussel is listed as federally *endangered* and has an *endangered* state status in North Carolina. The Dwarf wedgemussel is known to occur in the Neuse River basin, inhabiting large rivers to small streams. In the southern portion of its range it is often found buried under logs or root mats in shallow water (USFWS 1993). It is unknown whether Dwarf wedgemussel may occur on the Wooten Meadow property, and additional investigation is needed. The NCNHP has no records of known populations of the Dwarf wedgemussel on the property.

Historic Records of Federally Endangered Species

Historic Records have generally not been documented in Wake County in over 20 years.

The Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) occurred historically in Wake County, and is listed as federally *endangered* with an *endangered* state status in North Carolina. The Red-cockaded woodpecker is found in open, old-growth pine stands greater than sixty years old. No Red-cockaded woodpeckers or their cavity trees were observed during field investigations of the Wooten Meadow property. The NCNHP has no records of known populations of this species within a one mile radius of the site. Development of the park is not likely to adversely affect the Red-cockaded woodpecker. The *List of the Rare Animal Species of North Carolina 2012* also lists the American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) as federally endangered, with a historical occurrence in Wake County.

The USFWS lists approximately eleven Federal Species of Concern (FSC) in Wake County. A table is included listing the habitat requirements of the species, and whether suitable habitat for is available on the Wooten Meadow property. At least three of the species are historic records in Wake County, with some expectation of rediscovery.

	<u>Habitat Requirements</u>	<u>Habitat available at Wooten Meadow?</u>
Bachman's sparrow <i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Historic Record: Prefer longleaf pine woodlands with grassy areas, particularly those that have been burned recently; 'Special Concern' in North Carolina	No
Carolina darter <i>Etheostoma collis lepidinion</i>	Small to moderate sized streams with low current velocity, preferring substrates of mud, sand and sometimes bedrock; tolerant of fine sediments covering the substrate; 'Special Concern' in North Carolina	possible but unlikely
Carolina madtom <i>Noturus furiosus</i>	Historic Record: Occupies relatively larger streams that flow into the Neuse and Tar rivers; commonly seen in mussel shells, under logs and rocks, in piles of leaves and sticks; 'Threatened' in North Carolina	unlikely
Roanoke bass <i>Ambloplites cavifrons</i>	Creeks to medium rivers with rock, gravel, sand and silt substrates	unlikely
Southeastern myotis <i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Historic Record: Roost in caves or abandoned buildings with standing water and forage over open water; Can also roost in hollow trees	unlikely
Southern hognose snake <i>Heterodon simus</i>	Open xeric areas with well-drained sandy soils, and river floodplains	unlikely
Atlantic pigtoe <i>Fusconaia masoni</i>	Inhabits mostly medium to large streams with moderate gradients, clean fast water, and sand or gravel bed under riffles	unlikely
Diana fritillary <i>Speyeria diana</i>	Breed in deciduous or mixed woods; feed in grasslands and shrub lands	possible but unlikely
Green floater <i>Lasmigona subviridis</i>	Small to medium freshwater streams with slow current gravel and sand substrates, in water depths of one to four feet, in the Neuse River Basin	possible but unlikely
Yellow lance <i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>	Freshwater streams and rivers with clean coarse to medium sized sandy substrates, rocks, and in mud in slack water areas of Neuse River Basin	possible but unlikely

Add Septima's clubtail

State Listed Animal Species in Wake County

Animals from the *Natural Heritage Program List of the Rare Animal Species of North Carolina 2012* (revised February 27, 2013) that occur in Wake County in known locations, and animals with historic records in Wake County that have not been documented in 20 years (with some expectation of rediscovery), are tallied below. The tally does not include rare animals that are not well known and do not yet have adequate inventory and may occur in Wake County, and rare species with known populations in nearby or adjacent counties that may also occur in Wake County.

Five animal species listed as state **Endangered** in North Carolina are found in Wake County (one of the five is a historic record). Four Freshwater Bivalves that occur in Wake County are State Endangered: Dwarf Wedgemussel, Yellow Lance, Atlantic Pigtoe, and Green Floater. The Red-cockaded woodpecker has a State Status of Endangered, with a historical occurrence in Wake County.

Approximately eight animal species listed as state **Threatened** in North Carolina are found in Wake County (one is a historic record). The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), although delisted from the Federal Endangered Species Act, is still threatened in North Carolina. The Eastern Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) and the Least Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra aepyptera*), along with four Freshwater Bivalves (Triangle Floater, Roanoke Slabshell, Eastern Lampmussel, Creeper) are Threatened in North Carolina. There is also a Historic record for Carolina Madtom (*Noturus furiosus*) in Wake County. There is a record of the freshwater bivalve Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*) within one mile of the Wooten Meadow property, but this record has a low or very low mapping accuracy.

Nine animal species listed as **Special Concern** in North Carolina are found in Wake County, including the Star-nosed Mole (*Condylura cristata*), North Carolina Spiny Crayfish (*Orconectes carolinensis*) and Neuse River Waterdog (*Necturus lewisi*). The freshwater fish Carolina Darter and Southern Hognose Snake are listed as Special Concern at both the State and Federal level, as are two historically recorded Wake County species, the Southeastern Myotis Bat and Bachman's Sparrow (see chart on page 77).

Two animal species of Special Concern in North Carolina do still occur in Wake County, and both have historical records on or within the vicinity of the Wooten Meadow Property. The Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) lives in forests surrounding marshes and swamps and temporary bodies of water that are free of fish. They live mostly underground and only move towards water during breeding season. There is a historic record for the Four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) occurring within one mile of the Wooten Meadow property.

There is also a historic record within the park boundaries for a freshwater bivalve or "mussel" Notched Rainbow (*Villosa constricta*), in the northern part of the tract in Hare Snipe Creek. However, this species has not been observed since 1951. The Notched Rainbow is found in riffles, runs, and pools of streams and large rivers. It prefers sand or gravel substrates and tolerates only very clean high-quality habitat. Like most mussel species, the Notched Rainbow is sensitive to pollution, sedimentation, low oxygen conditions, and stream channel modifications, and is vulnerable throughout its range.

There are at least thirteen animal species found in Wake County that are listed as **Significantly Rare** in North Carolina (three are historic records, with some anticipation of rediscovery). They include the Tricolored Bat, Warbling Vireo, Slender Glass Lizard, Roanoke Bass, a stonefly called Vernal Stone, a caddisfly, two dragonflies, and a tiger moth. Historic records exist for the Northern Myotis bat, a moth, and a beetle. The Significantly Rare Carolina Ladle Crayfish (*Cambarus davidi*) has a record of occurrence within one mile of the Wooten Meadow property, however the record has low mapping accuracy. The Carolina Ladle Crayfish is endemic to North Carolina, and is only found in the Neuse River and Cape Fear River drainages. It inhabits intermittent streams, seepages, springs and burrows. Population and locality data for the Carolina Ladle Crayfish is insufficient, however new occurrences are being discovered continually.

Animal species on the **Watch List** of the *Natural Heritage Program List of the Rare Animal Species of North Carolina 2012* are rare or uncommon, are not well-studied, or are otherwise threatened with serious decline. An animal may be on the Watch List rather than the main *List of Rare Species* due to lack of adequate data on historic or present extent in North Carolina, especially for invertebrates. Some Watch List species are known to be rare or uncommon, but may or may not be declining. Others are not rare yet, but are undergoing significant loss or disturbance of their habitats. The NCNHP requests information about the Watch List animal species to clarify their status and reclassify them if appropriate. Counties of known occurrence are listed for many animal groups, but not yet listed for others; updates are expected for all Watch List species in 2014. Birds on the Watch List include the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) previously listed as Special Concern, and the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Mammals include the Hoary Bat, Seminole Bat, Long-tailed Weasel, and Eastern Fox Squirrel. Reptiles include the Smooth Earth Snake (*Virginia valeriae*).

No specimens of rare or protected animal species from either the *List of Rare Species* or the Watch List have been observed on the Wooten Meadow property. Natural resources inventory throughout the City of Raleigh park, greenway and open space system is ongoing, and utilizes partners such as Audubon, NCNHP, USFWS, and other partner agencies and Subject Matter Experts. The inventory and database of animals observed at Wooten Meadow and other City of Raleigh property will be updated as information is collected.

Wooten Meadow Park is located within a sub-watershed that contains fish or mussels listed with the state of North Carolina as Priority Species in the Wildlife Action Plan. Priority Species are species that are declining, threatened, endangered, and/or have limited data, indicating a need for survey, monitoring, and research attention in order to improve overall understanding of them. Staff from the *North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission* assisted the City of Raleigh in developing a listing of Priority Species that may *potentially* occur on the property.

Invasive Fire ants

Imported fire ants constitute a hazard to both people and wildlife. Imported fire ants are found throughout much of eastern North Carolina and spread to new areas through transport of fire ant infested nursery stock and sod. Areas with fire ants are currently under quarantine by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Quarantine is directed at nursery operators.

Fire ants appear to be present within the sewer easements of Wooten Meadow. Management of fire ants is complex and depends on the species of ant present. If fire ants are determined to be invasive imported fire ant species, the City should develop a plan and initiate fire ant management on the site before the park is developed, in order to reduce the spread of fire ants during site disturbance.

Appendices

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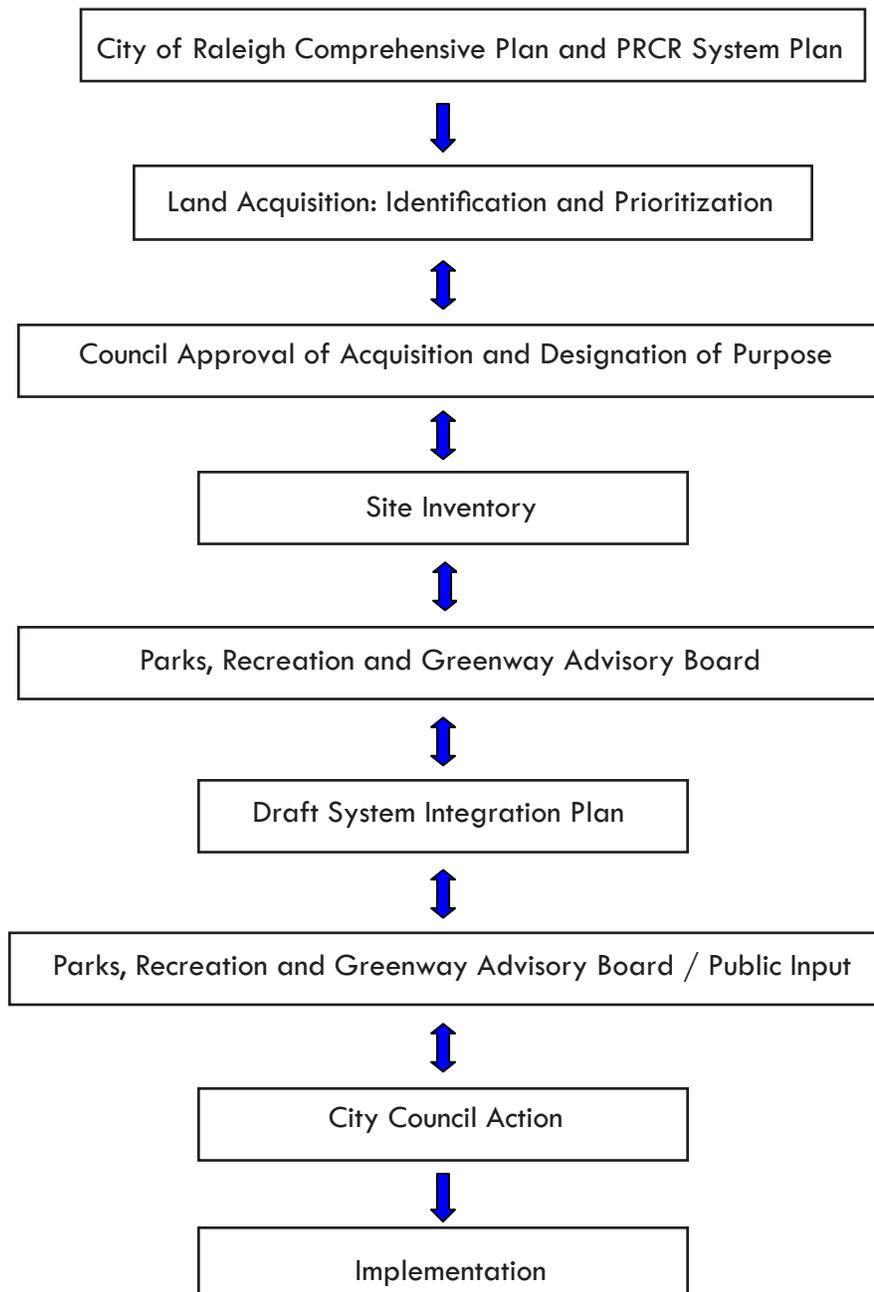
Appendix A

Wooten Meadow

System Integration Plan and Master Plan Process

Introduction: What is a System Integration Plan?

The System Integration Plan (SIP) is a sub-section of the overall City Park Master Planning process described in *City of Raleigh Council Resolution (2003) – 735*. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department undertakes a public master plan process to help determine the specific elements that are desired in a particular park. The purpose of the site specific System Integration Plan is to develop a set of guidelines for the interim management of parkland prior to the initiation of a Master Plan. The SIP will document existing site conditions and constraints, establish the park's classification consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and if applicable, any proposed special intent for the park. The SIP is not intended to restrict the Master Plan Process. A System Integration Plan Conceptual Flow Model demonstrates the interaction between the City of Raleigh Park Plan, acquisition of a park property, the City of Raleigh Parks staff, the public, City Council, and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) in the SIP process.



Appendix B

Wooten Meadow

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Report

Executive Summary

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**Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
City of Raleigh – Wooten Property
Raleigh, North Carolina
July 13, 1995**

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the review of the public record and interviews with various personnel and agencies, Aquaterra concludes the following for the subject property:

- Based on interviews and the historical aerial photography review, the property's only use has been farmland or horse pasture. The past aerial photography did not identify any surface staining, stressed vegetation, seeps, or depressions indicative of oils or hazardous substances releases or deposition.
- There were no local, state, or federal records indicating a release of hazardous substances or oils on the subject site or surrounding properties. Six LUST sites were identified by the database search, all located nearly 0.5 miles southwest of the subject site. These sites are separated from the subject site by a substantial drainage feature (Hare Snipe Creek) and would not likely be considered a significant environmental liability. There were no other environmental permits, violations, or enforcement actions found for the subject site or surrounding properties within the ASTM search radii.

Based upon the on-site reconnaissance and interviews, Aquaterra offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

- There was no storage or use of fuels, oils, or hazardous substances observed at the site.
- There were two discarded tires observed along the west property boundary. Aquaterra would recommend these be removed and properly disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- We would recommend asbestos sampling of the roofing materials prior to any removal or demolition activities.

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Appendix C

City of Raleigh Nature Preserves Criteria

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Wooten Meadow Neighborhood Park

20.5 acres

OBJECTIVE CRITERIA: GIS Evaluation

1. Parcel contains species or natural communities that are endangered, threatened or rare as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program (Element Occurrence (EO) with an Extant status and Estimated Accuracy of Medium or Higher).

No, there are no known current Element Occurrences on this property. In the Natural Heritage Program database, there are some Element Occurrences within the vicinity that are considered Historic Records or have a low mapping accuracy.

2. Parcel contains identified area or species within the Wake County Natural Areas Inventory as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program (Significant Natural Heritage Area, or SNHA)

No, there are no Significant Natural Heritage Areas (SNHA) known to occur on this property.

3. Parcel is in close proximity to or provides connection between other properties that are currently protected.

Connectivity is limited to the Hare Snipe Creek corridor. The property is located in the Hare Snipe Creek floodplain. Portions of the floodplain receive some protection through the Neuse River Riparian Buffer Rules. City of Raleigh greenway property is located to the north of the property, but is intersected by a busy thoroughfare W. Millbrook Rd. There is a narrow greenway easement on the west side of Hare Snipe Creek along the northwest portion of the park.

4. Parcel contains appreciable water features in the landscape, such as wetlands, lakes, ponds, perennial stream systems, or floodplains.

Yes. Hare Snipe Creek is a dominant landscape feature in the park. Portions of two first order tributaries of Hare Snipe Creek traverse the park. The majority of the park is within the floodplain of Hare Snipe Creek. Areas of the floodplain are inundated, particularly during the winter months, creating ephemeral wetland conditions. Hydrology on the site has been altered. Adjacent parcels contain significant wetlands and groundwater seeps.

5. Parcel contains hydric soils which may be indicative of wetlands.

Yes. Approximately 75% (14.24 acres) of the Wooten park property is underlain by the hydric soil Chewacla (Cm). The hydric soil Chewacla, 0 to 2 percent slopes consist of nearly level somewhat poorly drained soils in the flood plains of streams. A seasonally high water table is at a depth of approximately 1.5 feet. Natural fertility and organic matter content are low, infiltration is good. Chewacla soils are very acidic. The surface layer is sandy loam to silt loam. Surface runoff is slow. The hazard of flooding is severe. The hazard of wetness is very severe. (Wake County Soil Survey, USGS)

6. Parcel contains steep slopes (> 8%) near streams or river.

Yes.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA:

7. The property contains species that are uncommon as identified and mapped by staff.

The NC Natural Heritage Program maintains a List of Rare Plant Species for plants native to North Carolina that are officially recognized by federal or state agencies as protected or otherwise rare. Some plants are rare but are not under any legal protection. Additionally, plants may be locally uncommon within the City of Raleigh Parks, greenways and open space system. Consulting the most recent List of Rare Plant Species (updated February 27, 2013), the following rare plants occur at or near Wooten Meadow:

Sweet bay *Magnolia virginiana*

Umbrella magnolia *Magnolia tripetala*

Mountain laurel *Kalmia latifolia*

8. The property contains outstanding geologic characteristics, such as cave, waterfall, cliffs, granite outcrop, etc. as identified and mapped by staff.

The Hare Snipe Creek corridor contains some areas of exposed rock.

9. The conservation benefit outweighs the expense of stewarding the property due to location, maintenance of structures, resource management (invasives), liability, multiple owners, trespassing concerns, irreparable contamination, cost prohibitive cleanup, or other factors.

Considerations:

A significant portion of the park contains hydric soils and the active floodplain of Hare Snipe Creek. This park plays an important role in stormwater management. The Hare Snipe Creek corridor does provide wildlife habitat.

Invasive species are found on much of the property. Invasive English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is abundant on several portions of the site, carpeting the ground and growing up the trees. Native vegetation is moderately diverse, however many native species have just a few individual plants trying to maintain a foothold within an abundance of non-native invasive plants and within an environment regularly disturbed by stormwater. The property has been historically altered. Impacts from adjacent urban development occur.

At the time of the Wooten Meadow SIP report, the park does not appear to support large areas of exceptionally high quality wildlife habitat or natural resources. Significant Historical Resources are located on the property.

10. The property is of sufficient size and shape that its conservation resources are likely to remain intact, even if adjacent properties are developed; or sufficient neighboring property is either already protected or to be included as to achieve the same result.

The property is 20.5 acres with a narrow linear shape.

11. The area can be sufficiently buffered.

The park vicinity is highly developed with large lot residential housing and a busy thoroughfare W. Millbrook Rd.

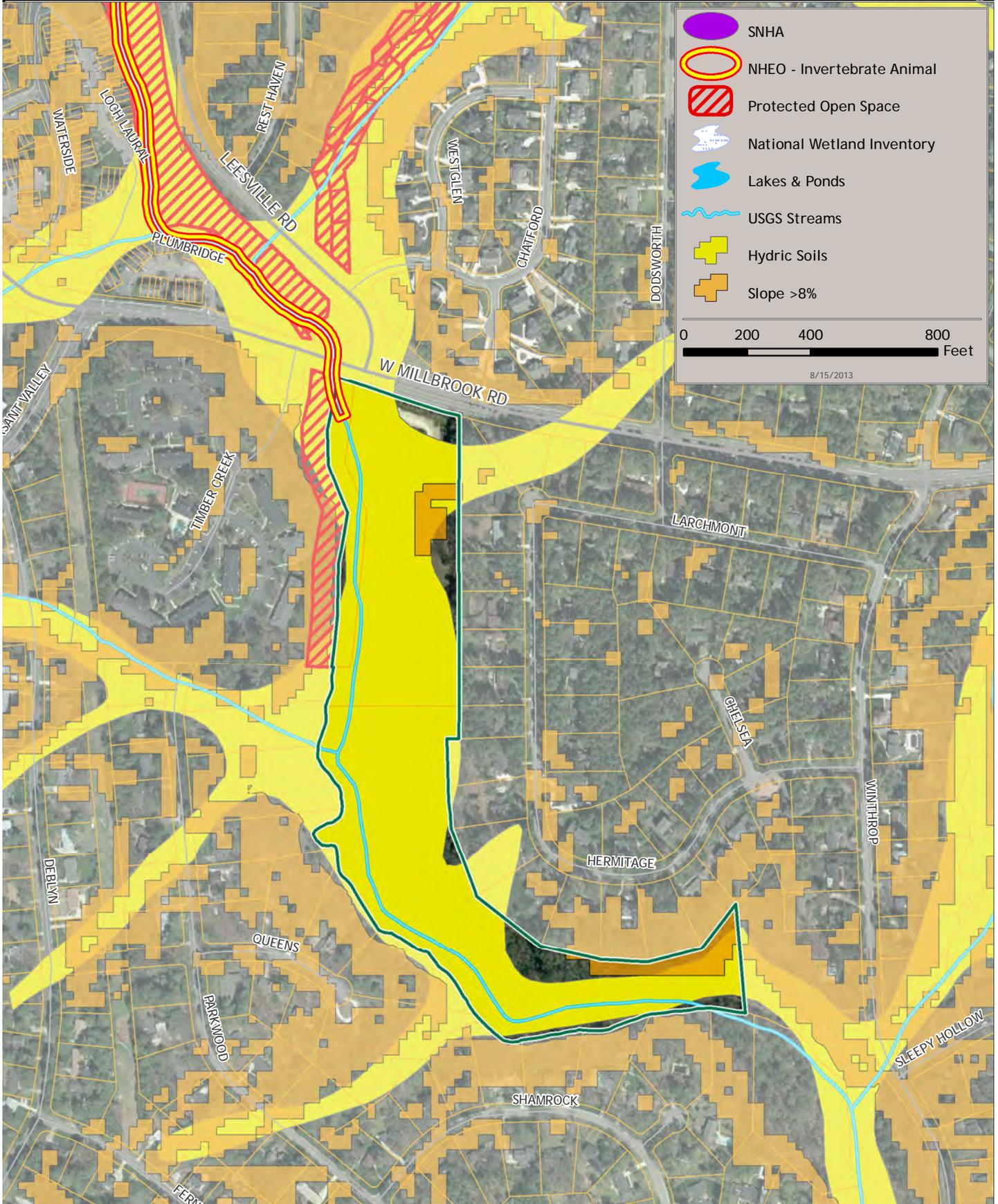
12. Compatibility of existing use or condition, in whole or part, is conducive to being a Nature Preserve.

The park does not currently support exceptionally high quality wildlife value or natural resources.

13. The larger context for Park Planning should be considered when designating new Nature Preserves and Protected Natural Areas.

Nature Preserve Criteria map

Wooten Meadow Park



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Appendix D

Flora Resources

Wooten Meadow Park

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Inventory of Flora Observed on Wooten Meadow Park

Wetland Indicator Status is a system used to designate a plant species' preference for occurrence in a wetland or upland. A hydrophyte is a plant adapted to grow in water. Wooten Meadow lies in the floodplain of Hare Snipe Creek, and the majority of the site is floodplain and wetland habitat.

Wetland Indicator Status includes the following designations:

- Obligate Wetland (OBL): Plant is almost always a hydrophyte, rarely occurs in uplands
- Facultative Wetland (FACW): Plant is usually a hydrophyte but occasionally is found in uplands
- Facultative (FAC): Plant commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
- Facultative Upland (FACU): plant is occasionally a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
- Obligate Upland (UPL): Plant is rarely a hydrophyte, almost always occurs in uplands

Trees and Shrubs

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Tag Alder	FACW+
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	FACW
<i>Baccharis halmifolia</i>	Groundsel Tree	FAC
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	FACW
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Ironwood	FAC
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut hickory	
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut hickory	
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut hickory	
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	FACW+
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	
<i>Euonymus americana</i>	Strawberry Bush	
<i>Fagus grandiflora</i>	American Beech	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witchhazel	FACU
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw	FACW-
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	FACW
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern redcedar	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Northern Spicebush	FACW
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplar	
<i>Luquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum	FAC+
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern Magnolia	
<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	Umbrella Magnolia	FAC
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet Bay	FACW+
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum	
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood	
<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf Pine	
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine	
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American Sycamore	
<i>Populus deltoids?</i>	Cottonwood	FAC-

Uncommon in City parks
NC Rare Plant List Watch 6 – Regionally Rare

Quercus alba
Quercus nigra
Quercus phellos
Quercus rubra
Rhus copallinum
Rubus sp.
Salix nigra

White oak
Water Oak FAC
Willow Oak
Red oak
Winged sumac
Blackberry
Black willow

Vines

Mikania scandens
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Passiflora lutea
Smilax sp.
Toxicodendron radicans
Vitis spp.

Climbing Hempvine FACW+
Virginia Creeper
Yellow Passionflower
Greenbriar
Poison Ivy
Muscadine Grape

Ferns

Athyrium asplenoides
Botrychium dissectum
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis
Polystichum acrostichoides
Woodwardia areolata

Lady Fern FAC
Cutleaf Grapefern FAC
Cinnamon Fern FACW+
Royal fern
Christmas Fern FAC
Netted Chain Fern OBL

Herbaceous Plants

Agalinis purpurea
Agrimonia parviflora
Arctium
Arisaema triphyllum
Arundinaria gigantea
Aster spp.
Bidens sp.
Boehmeria cylindrica
Chasmanthium latifolium
Cinna arundinacea
Commelina erecta
Desmodium sp.
Diodia virginiana
Echinochloa crus-galli
Elephantopus tomentosus
Elymus hystrix
Eupatorium capillifolium
Eupatorium pilosum
Eupatorium sp.
Hexastylis arifolia
Impatiens capensis
Lobelia cardinalis
Ludwigia alternifolia
Lycopus virginicus

Gerardia FAC
Harvestlice FAC
Burdock
Jack in the Pulpit FACW-
Giant Cane FACW
Asters
Beggarticks
False Nettle FACW+
River Oats FAC-
Sweet Woodreed FACW
Whitemouth Dayflower
Tick-trefoil
Virginia Buttonweed FACW
Barnyard Grass FACW-
Elephant's Foot
Eastern Bottlebrush Grass
Common Dog Fennel
Rough leaved Boneset FACW
Eupatorium
Littlebrownjug
Jewelweed FACW
Cardinal Flower FACW+
Seedbox OBL
Water Hoarhound OBL

Persicaria spp.
Persicaria virginiana
Phytolacca americana
Pilea pumila
Pluchea camphorata
Polygonum virginianum
Rhexia sp.
Rudbeckia laciniata
Ruellia carolinensis
Rumex sp.
Solanum sp.
Solidago spp.
Verbesina occidentalis
Vernonia sp.
Xanthorrhiza simplicissima

Smartweed
Jumpseed FAC
Pokeweed
Clearweed FACW
Camphorweed FACW
Jumpseed FAC
Meadowbeauty FACW+
Green Headed Coneflower FACW
Carolina wild petunia
Sheep Sorrel
Nightshade (could be non-native)
Goldenrod
Yellow Crownbeard
Ironweed
Yellowroot FACW-

Invasives

Albizia julibrissin
Elaeagnus sp.
Hemerocallis sp.
Ilex crenata
Ipomoea sp.
Lespedeza cuneata
Ligustrum japonicum
Ligustrum sinense
Liriope sp.
Lonicera japonicum
Mahonia bealei
Microstegium vimineum
Nandina sp.
Pyrus calleryana
Rosa multiflora
Vinca minor
Wisteria sinensis

Mimosa
Olive
Day Lily
Japanese Holly
Morning Glory
Lespedeza
Japanese Privet
Chinese Privet
Monkeygrass
Japanese Honeysuckle
Leatherleaf Mahonia
Japanese Stiltgrass
Heavenly Bamboo
Callery Pear
Multiflora Rose
Common Periwinkle
Chinese Wisteria

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Appendix E

Fauna Resources

Wooten Meadow Park

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Inventory of Wildlife Observed: Wooten Meadow Park

Birds

<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron
<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Tufted Titmouse
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	Blue Grosbeak
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee
<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	Carolina Chickadee
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin

Mammals

<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed deer
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon

Amphibians

<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	Spring Peeper
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog

Reptiles

<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	Copperhead
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Wooten Meadow Park

Comments and Records

Wooten Meadow Park

Work Progression and Updates

APPENDIX B: SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT



Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan: Situational Assessment

OCTOBER 27, 2014

CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	3
Introduction of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan	4
Project Overview.....	4
Site Context.....	6
Site Conditions	6
Transportation and Access	6
SIP Overview	6
Community Context.....	7
Surrounding Neighborhoods and Parks.....	7
Neighborhood Demographics.....	9
Community Outreach.....	10
Northwest CAC.....	10
Project Webpage.....	10
Social Media Outreach	10
Key Community Interviews	11
Community Survey	12
Citizen Planning Committee Identification	15
Community Needs and Issues.....	17
Next Steps	19
Appendix A: Demographic Characteristics.....	20
Appendix B: Informational Handout	23
Appendix C: Community Survey.....	24
Appendix D: Community Survey Results.....	27
Appendix E: Community Interviews.....	34
Appendix F: Community Interview Guide.....	34
Appendix G: Potential CPC Member Interview Guide	36

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, along with a design consultant led by DHM Design, is working to develop a Master Plan for the long term development of Wooten Meadow Park. This neighborhood park is located at 2801 West Millbrook Road – at the intersection of West Millbrook Road and Leesville Road in Northwest Raleigh. The first phase of the planning process is to collect and analyze information on the community context and existing conditions. It includes analysis of site conditions and data and implementation of opportunities for community involvement, including presentations, the initiation of a public webpage, distribution of a community survey, and a series of interviews with key community members and citizens.

The Situational Assessment summarizes this process, as well as the issues and community concerns raised as considerations for the future phases of the planning process. The key issues identified include:

- Safety and security
- Sidewalks and accessibility
- Noise and light pollution
- Preservation of the natural environment
- Preservation of unique land characteristics
- Neighborhood characteristics
- Community pride

Finally, a Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) will lead the Project Team in the decision making process and provide recommendations to City officials for the future of Wooten Meadow Park. Member of the CPC should be representative of the community and the diversity of community interests surrounding the park site. The design consultant conducted a series of screening interviews with potential citizen volunteers. The third-party review of responses and recommendation for the citizen planning committee makeup are contained within this document. The Situational Assessment and CPC membership recommendations were presented to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, Greenway Advisory Board on October 23, 2014 and was forwarded to Raleigh City Council. Once approved, the Project Team and CPC will work with the community to address the key issues with a park master plan by the end of 2015.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

INTRODUCTION OF WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, along with a design consultant led by DHM Design, is working to develop a Master Plan for the long term development of Wooten Meadow Park. The existing park is located at 2801 West Millbrook Road – at the intersection of West Millbrook Road and Leesville Road in Northwest Raleigh. Launched in September of 2014, the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan process is expected to conclude with a park master plan approval by the end of 2015. The *Comprehensive Public Participation Program for Park Planning* (City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources) outlines the process for engaging the community in the park planning process. In accordance with this process, the preparation of the Situational Assessment is done to identify the community context, needs, and issues related to Wooten Meadow Park.

Project Overview

The land for Wooten Meadow Park was donated to the City of Raleigh in 1996 by the Wooten family for the enjoyment of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway. This park has been classified as a neighborhood park, suggesting a mile service radius with a special focus on the recreation needs within a one-half mile walkable radius to the site.

The first phase of the Master Plan process requires an evaluation of the existing conditions through documentation and public engagement. A draft System Integration Plan documents the existing site conditions and proposes interim management recommendations for the park property. It is to be finalized in the first phase of the master planning, along with this identification of key issues for full consideration in the park planning process.

Therefore, the purpose of the Situational Assessment is to: augment the draft System Integration Plan; provide an overview of the strategies taken to collect community feedback; summarize key themes identified through the ongoing communication and outreach; and present overview of the planning process.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan



Figure 1 - Parcel with Topography

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Site Context

Site Conditions

Wooten Meadow Park is located at the intersection of Leesville Road and West Millbrook Road. The park has a total area of 21.1 acres and is zoned Residential-4 (R-4) (Figure 1). Adjacent land uses include an apartment complex along the northwest corner and single family lots along the western, southern and eastern boundaries of the site. West Millbrook Road bounds the property along the northern edge.

The site is mostly undeveloped land consisting of a gravel parking lot, managed open fields, and floodplain forest. The forest consists of a variety of evergreen and hardwood trees; unfortunately, much of the understory is covered with invasive, non-native vegetation. Hare Snipe Creek, which borders the western and southern edges of the site, is a dominant landscape feature. A large portion of the site sits within the creek's floodplain which is known to flood during periods of intense or steady precipitation. Public sewer easements run along the western and eastern property boundaries and a lateral sewer easement connects the two towards the middle of the site.

The property also contains structural remains of cultural and historical significance. Some of the remains observed include an old, dry-stacked stone dam associated with the 1773 Moses Parks Mill and possible old roads and paths that may be of historical importance. Mill foundations and remains of a mill head race are located in the vicinity of neighboring properties. Further archeological study of the site and adjacent lots has been recommended in the draft System Integration Plan.

Transportation and Access

Sidewalks are present along West Millbrook Road immediately in front of the park site, although there are no sidewalks on the northern side of the street near the park. Similarly, there are currently no sidewalks through the adjacent neighborhoods.

The main access point to the park is at the signalized intersection on West Millbrook Road, with a small gravel parking lot and park sign present at this entrance point. There are several sanitary sewer easements entering the site from the east and west with noticeable but casual entrances along with an existing major sanitary sewer easement within the southeastern corner of the property as the line heads towards Winthrop Drive.

System Integration Plan Overview

A System Integration Plan (SIP) has been completed by City staff. The SIP has been reviewed and accepted by the Parks, Recreation, and Advisory Board during the October 23, 2014 meeting. Its review at PRGAB coincided with the review and approval of this Situational Assessment.

Information contained within the SIP relates to the natural and cultural resources site conditions, as well as management and maintenance strategies for the City to implement.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Community Context

In addition to the physical conditions of the park, it is important to evaluate and understand the characteristics and context of the surrounding neighborhoods and community.

Surrounding Neighborhoods and Parks

Located in Northwest Raleigh at the intersection of West Millbrook Road and Leesville Road, Wooten Meadow Park is situated in a primarily residential neighborhood. There are several established neighborhoods near the park. The Brookhaven neighborhood surrounds the park on all sides, with the exception of the Timbers Apartment Homes along the northwestern edge of the park (Figure 2). The Brookhaven neighborhood also extends north across West Millbrook Road. There are several other apartment complexes along Pleasant Valley Road.

Wooten Meadow Park is located in an urban residential area with several parks in close proximity. Brookhaven Nature Park is located less than one-quarter mile from Wooten Meadow Park, but lacking neighborhood connections, it is over one mile between their formal access points. Lake Lynn Park is approximately 2.5 miles north of the park entrance. York Elementary, just under two miles east, has recently undergone renovations to improve playground facilities on school grounds. An existing greenway trail runs south from Lake Lynn but terminates just north of the park site at West Millbrook Road. A greenway planning corridor is shown on the adopted Capital Area Greenway plan, running south of this termination point, in order to one day make a connection to the existing Crabtree Creek greenway, south of Highway 70.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

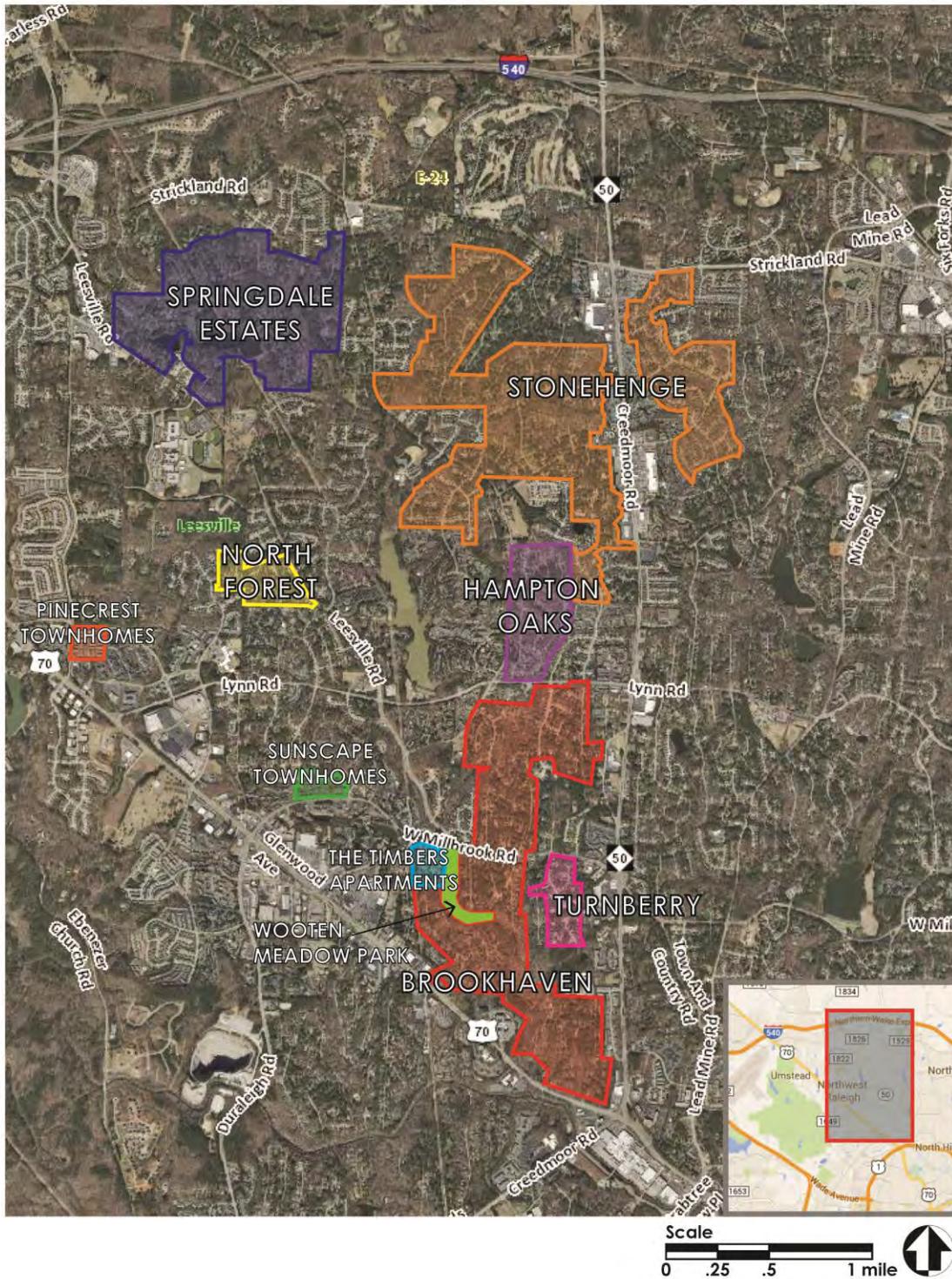


Figure 2 – Surrounding Neighborhoods

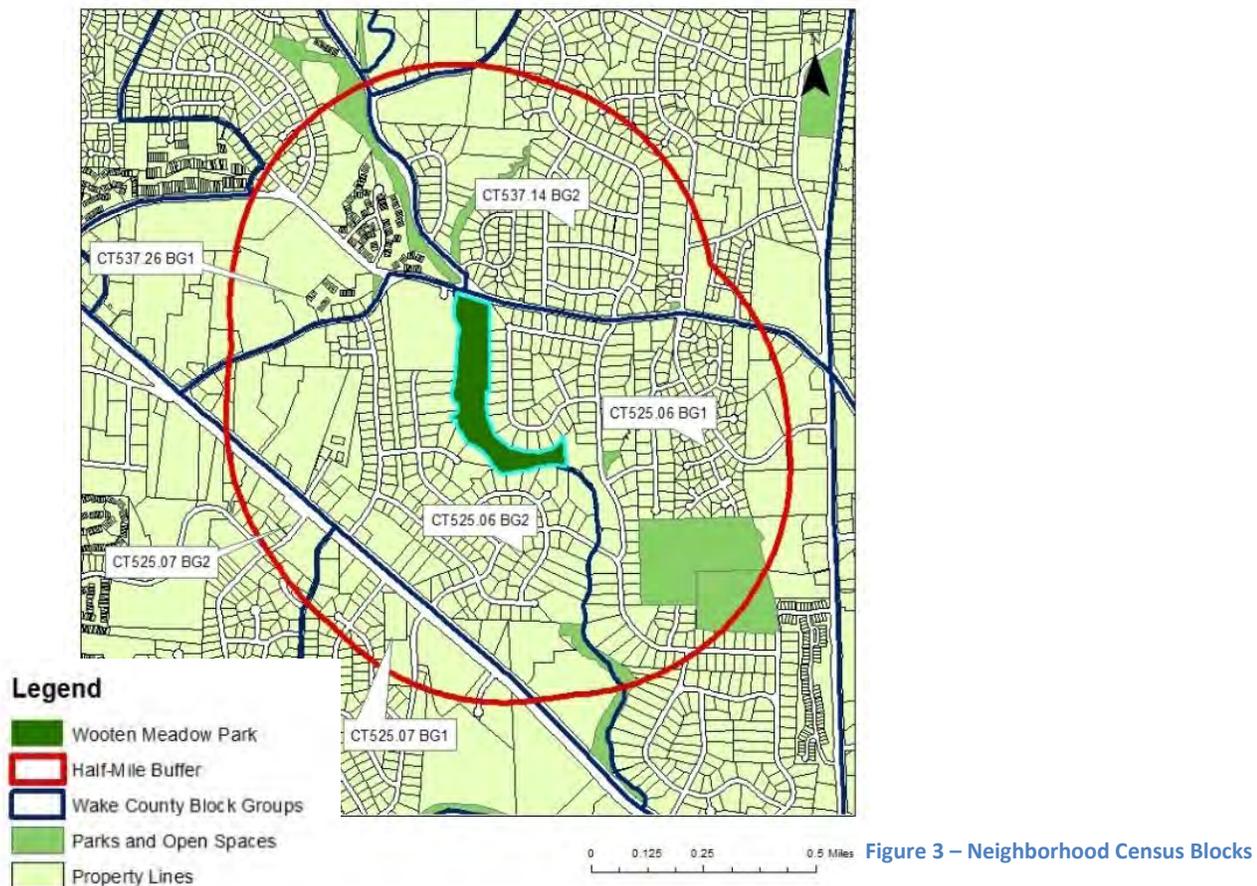
Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Neighborhood Demographics

Demographic information for the six US Census Block Groups within a one-half mile radius of the park site was reviewed to assist the Project Team in identifying any special populations, outreach strategies appropriate for the community, and a representative citizen committee (Figure 3).

The neighborhoods near Wooten Meadow Park are well-established with a low turnover, yet are becoming more attractive to newer and younger families. The data shows that the proportion of adults over the age of 60 (18.7 percent) is higher than that of Wake County (12.8 percent). The proportion of adults in the 20-39 age group in the study area is 5.0 percent higher when compared to that of in Wake County. Furthermore, just over half (56 percent) of the households in the project area are considered family households, but only 27 percent of households have related children under the age of 18 years living in the house. While this is significantly lower when compared to Wake County (36.5 percent with children under 18 years), it is widely reported to be on the increase.

Racial representation in the area is similar to that of Wake County, with a slightly lower rate of Hispanic individuals. Residents living around the park site are predominately English speakers. There is a slightly higher rate of residents below or at the poverty level. A full description of demographic comparisons can be found in Appendix A.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community engagement is essential to the success of the Master Plan. The primary purpose of the first phase is to collect information and data from the surrounding community on the needs and issues to be addressed throughout the planning process. The Project Team implemented several strategies to increase awareness of the project and gather comments from key community members and citizens. The following section summarizes the strategies completed or currently underway and the resulting key themes.

Northwest CAC

On September 9, 2014, City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Department staff attended the Northwest Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting at Northwest Police Station to hold a kick-off meeting for the project. City staff provided an overview of the Systems Integration Plan (SIP) and the Project Team introduced the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan project, the master planning process, and upcoming opportunities for citizens to get involved.

Attendees were provided the opportunity to review hardcopies of the SIP and copies of the informational handout and the Community Survey were distributed (Appendix B, C). The meeting was attended by 37 residents and several questions were raised regarding the planning process, involvement in the Citizen Planning Committee, and the wildlife and foliage present in the park. Concerns over previous uses of the property and recent residential break-ins were also voiced at this time.

Project Webpage

A project webpage was launched on September 9, 2014 for the purpose of acting as the primary resource for updates to the public. At that time, the project webpage contained a brief summary of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan, a downloadable version of the Community Survey, a site map, and a proposed schedule. The webpage will be continuously updated as information becomes available. Planned updates include electronic versions of all project documents, such as the SIP and Situational Assessment, as well as announcements for upcoming public meetings and summaries from all Citizen Planning Committee meetings. Also available on the web page is a chance for individuals to sign up for email notifications regarding this project.

Social Media Outreach

Several social media outlets were used to assist with the promotion of the project and the Community Survey. First, project announcements and links to the project webpage were posted on City of Raleigh media – including Facebook and Twitter. The City’s departmental Twitter account ‘Raleigh Parks’ posted three announcements between September 9 and September 28, 2014.

Additionally, several email notifications were sent to key community members to announce the project kick-off. These outreach emails also included draft messages for the organization or individual to use to help promote the project. Key community members on the list included individuals that were previously engaged in Wooten Meadow Park, organizations that use local parks or are entrenched in the

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

community, and individuals who signed up for email notifications or expressed interest in the project. Between September 9 and September 26, 2014, three email notifications were sent to 74 individuals and organizations.

Key Community Interviews

Several interviews were conducted with key community members between September 9, 2014 and October 3, 2014. Key community members included City of Raleigh staff, District E City Council Member, The Timbers Apartment Homes property manager, and local homeowners (Appendix E). The purpose of these interviews was to speak with individuals with special knowledge of the larger community context that could provide insight into specific community characteristics and help identify other groups or individuals to engage in the park planning process (Appendix F).

The following summary provides an overview of the key themes provided by the key community members:

Access and Connectivity

All of the participating key community members discussed concerns regarding enhancing access to the park site – specifically at the intersection of West Millbrook Road and Leesville Road. While the City of Raleigh is currently working to fill in sidewalk gaps along West Millbrook Road, the signalized intersection was noted to be very dangerous due to the angle and speed at which traffic approaches. If the park is developed to support greenway activity and use by young children, accessibility should be considered as foot traffic will certainly increase. Several interviewees suggested exploring pavement markings or signs to alert drivers of pedestrian activity.

Sense of Community

Several of the homeowners in the area said the neighborhood is welcoming and a desirable place to live but the current state of the park is not something they are proud of. They would like to see something done with the property to create an active, usable, and inviting place that will enhance the sense of community. It was suggested that creating spaces for community gatherings, such as block parties, be considered in the park planning as well.

Importance of Open Space

While it was observed that many homeowners in the area have backyards, it was also discussed that parks play an important role in providing free, outdoor spaces for individuals who live in high density housing. A representative for a nearby apartment complex said that many residents are not even aware of the adjacent park, except for when the parking lot was used during a recent winter weather event at which time their street had become inaccessible. However, a more developed park is viewed as a potential selling point for future tenants and homeowners alike.

Flooding/Water Retention

Both property owners and City of Raleigh staff noted that the park property has experienced issues with flooding. Located on a floodplain, with Hare Snipe Creek running along the western edge of the

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

property, it appears that the land has become more saturated over time. One homeowner noted that they experienced bank failure which apparently resulted in approximately 450 square feet of lost land (including a dog house, swing set, and several trees). Therefore, many of the key community members emphasized the importance of addressing water management in the park planning process.

Ensuring Positive Future Outreach Methods

Moving forward with outreach, flyers at the apartment complexes and direct mailings to property owners were stated as the most effective methods for engaging the larger community. Additionally, several neighborhood mailing lists and groups were stated as potential opportunities for outreach. Neighborhood contacts established through the interview process helped to identify several community advocates who will help to promote the project, as well. Coordination with apartment complex property management reaffirmed that flyers were the best strategy to notify residents of upcoming public workshops, which will be implemented in the future phases of the project. In previous years, several community meetings were hosted at York Elementary School due to its close proximity to the community and its large indoor gathering space. York Elementary School has also been identified as a community resource for representation and coordination in the planning process.

Community Survey

The System Integration Plan and site analysis provided an in-depth look at the physical conditions of the existing park site. However, it is also important to consider the interests and needs of the park neighbors and visitors in the master planning process. To this extent, a Community Survey was developed in an effort to gain insight into specific interests, needs, and characteristics of the people and groups using and living around Wooten Meadow Park.

The Community Survey was available from September 9, 2014 through September 28, 2014, with several different options to complete the survey. Hard copies were distributed at the September 9, 2014 Northwest CAC meeting. Additionally, an electronic version was available for download on the project webpage and through a direct link to a survey webpage supported by Constant Contact.

The survey was promoted using both the City of Raleigh Facebook and Twitter pages. Additionally, links to the both the project webpage and Constant Contact survey webpage were sent to the previously discussed distribution mailing list. In total, 128 surveys were completed. Of those, six were collected at the Northwest CAC meeting, two were sent in via mail, 10 were sent via email, and the remaining 112 were completed online. All survey results were compiled into the online database.

The following summary provides an overview of the key survey responses. A copy of the Community Survey can be found in Appendix C while additional survey results are available in Appendix D.

Household information

Survey participants were given the option to provide information about their household – including the name of their neighborhood or address, length of housing tenure, age range, and family members living in the house. Several neighborhoods were represented in the responses. Brookhaven was the most

*W*ooten Meadow Park Master Plan

represented neighborhood, specifically neighbors living along Hermitage Drive and Winthrop Drive. Other neighborhoods represented included Hampton Oaks, North Forest, Turnberry, and Stonehenge.

Through the follow up interview process, many community members noted that the surrounding neighborhoods were transitioning from older, established adults to newer, younger families. The household information collected through the survey supports this feedback. Of the respondents that provided household information (94), 61.3 percent have lived at their address over seven years. And only a small percentage of respondents have lived at their residence for less than three years (2.5 percent).

The age breakdown of survey respondents was very representative of the demographic characteristics collected using US Census data. Adults over the age of 60 represented 15.9 percent of survey respondent, which is similar to the project area that is 18.7 percent adults 60 and above. Almost half (46.3 percent) of the survey respondents reported no children living in the household.

Current Park Usage

Next, survey respondents were asked to provide information regarding current usage of Wooten Meadow Park. The park is maintained by the City mostly for passive uses after the closure of soccer fields in 2007. The front of the park, near West Millbrook Road, is mowed regularly while the sanitary sewer easements are inspected annually and cleared approximately every three years. The remaining park land has been maintained only on an as-needed basis. With this in mind, approximately two-thirds of respondents noted that they do not visit the park site, although 15.8 percent of respondents reported visiting the park monthly.

When asked about their knowledge or understanding of the park, many comments focused on previous park usage as a horse pasture followed by the organized soccer uses with Capital Area Soccer League. Several also mentioned previous use of a swing set when it was available. Other respondents commented on the current interim usage by the City of Raleigh as a holding facility for leaf collection and knowledge of a creek on the property or issues with flooding. However, the most common response was that people's understanding or experiences at the park were limited to driving by the property and taking note that the property looked unused or abandoned.

Although many respondents reported not visiting Wooten Meadow Park, 19 respondents reported using the park for nature exploration with another 15 reported using the site for walking or exercising. Additionally, 42 respondents said they walk to the park property, compared to the 18 that bike and 26 that drive. This supports the notion that Wooten Meadow Park is a neighborhood park, and attracts individuals that can easily access the park.

Needs and Challenges

Survey respondents were then asked to identify needs and challenges for the neighborhoods surrounding Wooten Meadow Park and 60 individuals provided their thoughts. In general, the theme of the comments suggested the biggest challenge for the project is to create a space that is active while

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

also respecting the neighbors. The following needs and challenges were listed by survey respondents, with the most frequently mentioned in bold:

- **Sidewalks and accessibility**
- **Preservation of the natural setting**
- **Security**
- Noise and light pollution
- Flooding and water retention issues related to creek overflow.

Future Park Usage

Finally, survey respondents were asked to think about the future of Wooten Meadow Park and the different activities and amenities that would be appropriate for the park site. In regards to potential amenities, the top three selections included:

- Walking or running trails (50 percent)
- Park benches (42 percent)
- Playgrounds (38 percent)

Likewise, when asked about the types of activities for the future park, the most common responses included:

- Playgrounds that are attractive for all ages and encourage active play and learning while keeping with the natural setting
- Nature paths and wetland boardwalks that encourage walking, bicycling, and nature observation
- Educational opportunities surrounding the natural setting, wildlife viewing, and historic sites
- Open space and green space that encourage different types of free play while also supporting other activities like picnics or meditation

CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE IDENTIFICATION

A major component of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan process is community engagement through the formation of a Citizen Planning Committee (CPC). The role of the CPC is to act as a representative group of the larger community and provide ongoing direction and feedback on the development of the park master plan.

Volunteers for the CPC were solicited through the Community Survey and identified by other members in the community. All interested individuals participated in a brief telephone interview which included the same set of questions regarding personal information, knowledge, and skills; understanding of the community context; and, comfort level working in groups. The Project Team considered each interviewee and evaluated their qualitative responses. Per adopted park planning guidelines for a consensus-oriented body, selection qualifications included an individual's commitment to be fully open to other perspectives and committed to bringing forward other's ideas towards an open definition of community interest and consensus.

As noted previously in this document, the neighborhood around the park property has unique demographic characteristics. In an effort to strike the required balance of representation in the CPC, the evaluation process included a review of how interested individuals met the different criteria. Of the 32 individuals that expressed interest in the committee, 18 have been recommended for inclusion on the CPC as standing members (see Table 1 below) with an additional two persons being added from the Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board for a total of 20 persons.

In the coming months, throughout the master plan process, there are continuous opportunities for individuals to openly contribute to the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan:

- *Citizen Planning Committee Meetings* - Citizens are invited to attend the CPC meetings (which are open to the public). Additionally, there will be time at the beginning of each meeting for comments from the public as well as a review of the on-going public comment log. The CPC will adopt an operational charter to ensure public participation and representation in establishing community consensus.
- *Public Workshops* – There will be several public workshops over the course of the project where the community is invited to provide input in the Master Planning process. This input will form the basis and limits of community consensus deliberations of the CPC.
- *Ad-Hoc Committees* – There is the potential for additional committees to address special interests and concerns, as identified by the CPC and Project Team. Individuals and stakeholders will be notified if and when these committees form and seek additional involvement.
- *City of Raleigh Public Meetings* – The Master Plan approval process will include at least two presentations to the Park, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board – one being a formal public hearing. Finally, the Raleigh City Council will receive all public input before considering approval of the plan in a final public meeting expected in late 2015.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

The following individuals are recommended for inclusion on the CPC for the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan.

Recommended Members
Avett, Stephanie
Barlow, Maggie
Childs, Eric
Clagett, Carol
Durham, Michael
Kirton, Kevin
Landon, Caroline
Moore, Ryan
Orton, Hobert
Sawicki, Carole
Sheriff, Steve
Sherwin, Ralph
Smothers, Joanna
Soloman, Carolyn
Sprankle, Cathy
White, Julie
Wilkinson, Allison
Williams, Laurie

Table 1: Recommended Citizen Planning Committee Members

Additionally, two representatives from the Parks, Recreation, Greenway Advisory Board have been nominated for inclusion during the October 23, 2014 PRGAB meeting: Rodger Koopman and Jennifer Hoverstad.

Note: Demographic data is available upon request for the above-noted recommended members.

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ISSUES

After all of the feedback collected through the Community Survey and interviews with key community members as well as and potential CPC members were reviewed and summarized, several community needs and issues were identified as key factors to be considered in the planning process. Throughout the development of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan, the Project Team and CPC will continue to refer the following issues to ensure that the park is meeting the needs of the surrounding community.

Safety and Security

Several homeowners adjacent to the park site expressed concerns over previous issues of trespassing or attempted break-ins. Several persons emphasized that while they would like to see a park that is inviting to visit, it should be designed primarily for the neighbors as opposed to becoming a destination park that draws large crowds. The general consensus among those who provided feedback is that the park should be designed in a way that encourages people to visit yet deters crime and keeps both park users and neighbors safe.

Sidewalks and Accessibility

Traffic volume and speed were noted as issues along West Millbrook Road and Leesville Road as well as on the neighborhood streets. Due to the proximity of York Elementary and the lack of sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, many community members reported safety concerns while walking or bicycling on the side streets and hoped that Wooten Meadow Park could provide a place to do these activities.

Additionally, connectivity to the neighborhood and other greenways was suggested as a strategy to support safe pedestrian activity. While City of Raleigh planning staff noted sidewalk projects to fill the gaps along West Millbrook Road, the intersection with Leesville Road was noted by several to be particularly dangerous. Crosswalks, signage, and/or other roadway design elements could be considered in the future to support safe pedestrian and bicycling traffic across the intersection. This is especially important if a greenway connection to Lake Lynn is considered in the future.

Noise and Light Pollution

Noise and light pollution is a major concern for homeowners with properties adjacent to the park property. These concerns stem from past park uses and the interest in preserving the wildlife as well as the overall topographic landform of the park, which one neighbor noted as ‘acting like an amphitheater,’ and another a ‘sound canyon.’ Some interviewees suggested that park hours combined with amenities that encourage passive park uses could act as potential solutions.

Preservation of the Natural Setting

Many interviewees noted the importance of parks to provide refuge from the urban setting, especially for people living in high density developments. Open green space and tranquil settings allow the wildlife and environment to flourish while also providing opportunities for passive park enjoyment or unorganized activity. With several parks in close proximity, specifically Brookhaven Nature Park, many survey respondents and interviewees felt it was important for the park to not duplicate the nearby

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

parks. Instead, the park should be designed in a way that enhances the unique features of the site and acts as a passive recreation area with minimal structured play.

Preserve Unique Land Characteristics

Wooten Meadow Park has many unique natural features such as Hare Snipe Creek, many small watercourses, the open field, and collections of trees. As noted in the SIP, there are many natural micro environments with specific unique flora conditions related to their specific location within the site. The site also has several man-made land characteristics, most notably related the former dam and some recently uncovered historic usages. Although none of the community survey respondents were aware of the historic sites on the park property, many said they would like to see this preserved and considered in the park master plan.

Neighborhood Demographics

Many of those interviewed noted that the surrounding neighborhoods are well established, with very little homeowner turnover. However, over the past few years, the older residents have been moving out and are being replaced for younger, newer families. Therefore, there is interest from the residents in creating a space that meets the needs of diverse age groups and interests.

Community Pride

Although there is a lot of community interest in the future of Wooten Meadow Park, few people have had much experience at the park beyond seeing the park from West Millbrook Road. In fact, many stated feeling the park looked abandoned or unused which some feel may concern unwanted or illegal activity. Many interviewees said that parks are an opportunity for community pride and would like to see the current site developed into something that is an asset to the neighbors, rather than a point of contention.

NEXT STEPS

Following appointment by the City Council, the Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) will begin meeting in late 2014. The CPC will work with the Project Team to develop a preliminary park vision, goals, and begin to develop strategies to address the issues and concerns outlined in the approved Situational Assessment.

Several public workshops will be held at major milestones throughout the process, with the goal of the first workshop taking place early 2015. The Park Master Plan process will end with a presentation and approval of the Wooten Park Master Plan to the Parks, Recreation, Greenway Advisory Board and City Council expected to begin in the fall of 2015.

The Situational Assessment will continuously be referred to throughout the process to ensure that the Master Plan development incorporates the community's concerns and feedback collected through the interviews and Community Survey results. The Project Team will also continue to engage the community in the process through online notifications, targeted mailings, project webpage updates, and the use of the City of Raleigh MindMixer site for open and informal discussions. Ongoing and transparent communication with the surrounding community will be essential to the success of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan. The Project Team, along with the CPC, will work diligently to develop a plan that lays the groundwork for transforming this park into a community asset.

*W*ooten Meadow Park Master Plan

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Demographic Characteristics

Age

Geography	Total Adult Population	Age							
		0-19		20-39		40-59		60+	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	1,471	257	17.5%	343	23.3%	383	26.0%	488	33.2%
CT 525.06 BG 2	513	98	19.1%	83	16.2%	107	20.9%	225	43.9%
CT 525.07 BG 1	892	158	17.7%	408	45.7%	189	21.2%	137	15.4%
CT 525.07 BG 2	1,769	404	22.8%	507	28.7%	603	34.1%	255	14.4%
CT 537.14 BG 2	2,147	568	26.5%	708	33.0%	531	24.7%	340	15.8%
CT 537.26 BG 1	2,050	341	16.6%	1,072	52.3%	432	21.1%	205	10.0%
Study Area	8,842	1,826	20.7%	3,121	35.3%	2,245	25.4%	1,650	18.7%
Wake County	879,658	253,993	28.9%	266,563	30.3%	246,690	28.0%	112,412	12.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2007-2011), Table B01001, "Sex By Age."

Family Households

Family Households	Total Households	Family Households		Related Children Under 18 Years	
		#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	644	364	56.5%	124	19.3%
CT 525.06 BG 2	320	187	58.4%	96	30.0%
CT 525.07 BG 1	464	218	47.0%	78	16.8%
CT 525.07 BG 2	763	480	62.9%	251	32.9%
CT 537.14 BG 2	854	544	63.7%	261	30.6%
CT 537.26 BG 1	1,072	514	47.9%	303	28.3%
Study Area	4,117	2,307	56.0%	1,113	27.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census, QT-P11. "Households and Families: 2010"

Ethnicity

Geography	Total Population	White		Black or African American		American Indian and Alaska Native		Asian		Native Hawaiian/Pacific		Some Other Race		Two or More Races		Total Non-White	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	1,471	1,371	93.2%	35	2.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	65	4.4%	100	6.8%
CT 525.06 BG 2	513	415	80.9%	98	19.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	98	19.1%
CT 525.07 BG 1	892	713	79.9%	44	4.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	79	8.9%	56	6.3%	179	20.1%
CT 525.07 BG 2	1,769	1,085	61.3%	684	38.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	684	38.7%
CT 537.14 BG 2	2,147	1,365	63.6%	574	26.7%	12	0.6%	196	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	782	36.4%
CT 537.26 BG 1	2,050	560	27.3%	888	43.3%	0	0.0%	50	2.4%	0	0.0%	552	26.9%	0	0.0%	1,490	72.7%
Study Area	8,842	5,509	62.3%	2,323	26.3%	12	0.1%	246	2.8%	0	0.0%	631	7.1%	121	1.4%	3,333	37.7%
Wake County	879,658	598,722	68.1%	182,589	20.8%	2,710	0.3%	46,210	5.3%	95	0.0%	33,357	0.0%	15,975	1.8%	247,579	28.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2007-2011), Table B02001, "Race."

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Minority Status

Hispanic or Latino Origin	Total Population	Hispanic		Not Hispanic	
		#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	1,471	0	0.0%	1,471	100.0%
CT 525.06 BG 2	513	0	0.0%	513	100.0%
CT 525.07 BG 1	892	79	8.9%	813	91.1%
CT 525.07 BG 2	1,769	11	0.6%	1,758	99.4%
CT 537.14 BG 2	2,147	0	0.0%	2,147	100.0%
CT 537.26 BG 1	2,050	573	28.0%	1,477	72.0%
Study Area	8,842	663	7.5%	8,179	92.5%
Wake County	879,658	83,115	9.4%	796,543	90.6%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Age Spoken, Adult Population

Geography	Total Adult Population, 18 years and older	Primary Language Group of Persons Who Speak English Less than Very Well							
		Spanish		Other Indo-Euro		Asian/Pacific		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	836	52	6.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CT 525.06 BG 2	238	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CT 525.07 BG 1	648	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CT 525.07 BG 2	1,190	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	1.0%
CT 537.14 BG 2	1,347	0	0.0%	0	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CT 537.26 BG 1	1,558	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	0.5%	0	0.0%
Study Area	5,817	52	0.9%	0	0.0%	9	0.1%	14	0.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2007-2011), Table B16004, "Age by Language

Poverty Status

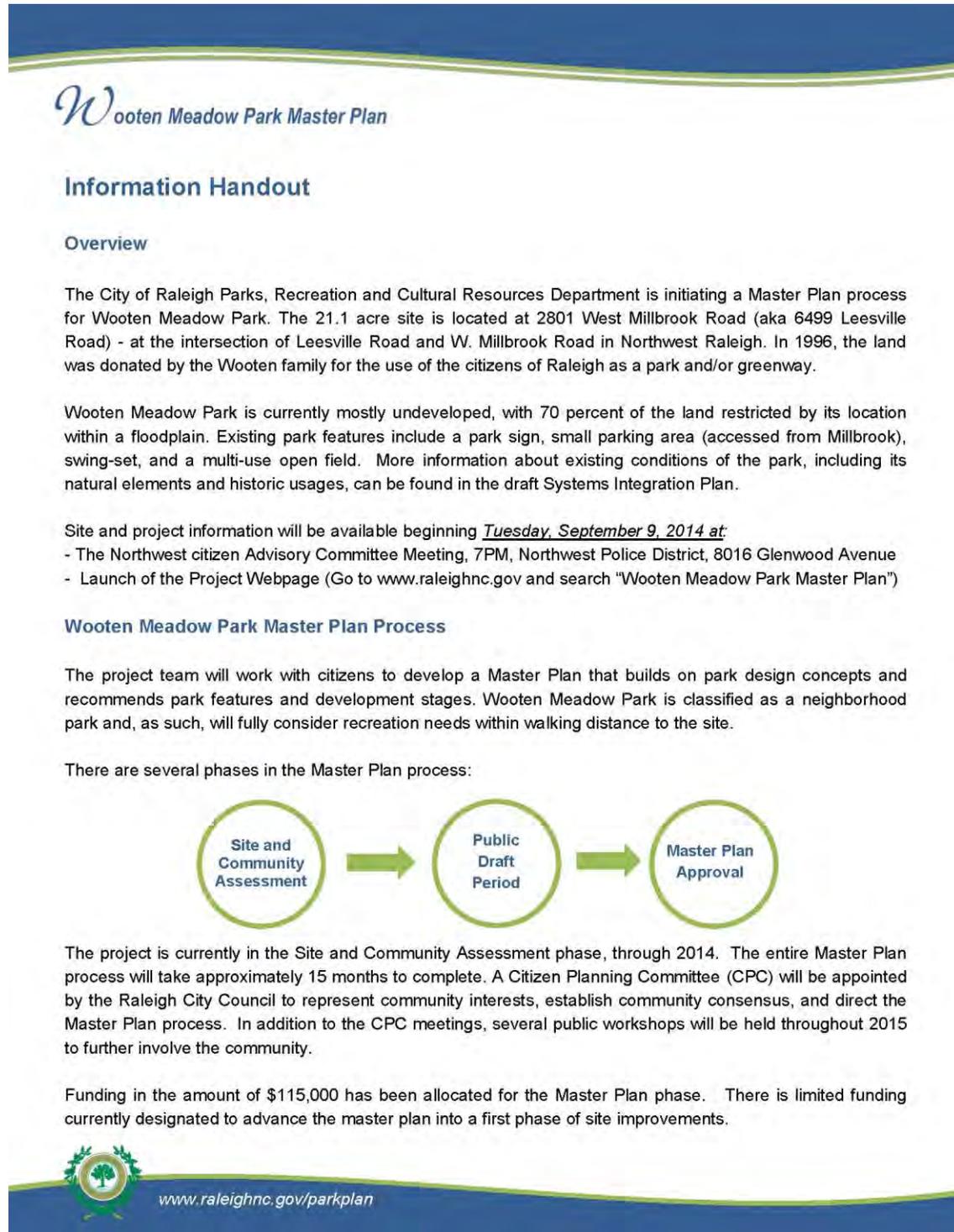
Poverty	Total Population for whom Poverty Status is Determined	Below Poverty Level		Very Poor: Under 50% of Poverty Level		Near Poor: Between 100% and 150% of Poverty Level	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
CT 525.06 BG 1	1,471	27	1.8%	27	1.8%	0	0.0%
CT 525.06 BG 2	513	21	4.1%	13	2.5%	0	0.0%
CT 525.07 BG 1	892	63	7.1%	21	2.4%	2	0.2%
CT 525.07 BG 2	1,769	396	22.4%	358	20.2%	91	5.1%
CT 537.14 BG 1	2,147	364	17.0%	39	1.8%	180	8.4%
CT 537.26 BG 2	2,050	306	14.9%	199	9.7%	166	8.1%
Study Area	8,842	1,177	13.3%	657	7.4%	439	5.0%
Wake County	858,079	86,939	10.1%	39,032	4.5%	63,297	7.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2007-2011), Table C17002,

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Appendix B: Informational Handout

The following informational handout was distributed at the Northwest CAC meeting on September 9, 2014 and is available for viewing on the project webpage.



The informational handout features a blue header with the title "Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan" in a stylized font. Below the header is a section titled "Information Handout" with a sub-section "Overview". The text describes the park's location, history, and current status. It includes a list of events for September 9, 2014, and a flowchart showing the three phases of the Master Plan process: Site and Community Assessment, Public Draft Period, and Master Plan Approval. The handout concludes with information about funding and a website link.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Information Handout

Overview

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is initiating a Master Plan process for Wooten Meadow Park. The 21.1 acre site is located at 2801 West Millbrook Road (aka 6499 Leesville Road) - at the intersection of Leesville Road and W. Millbrook Road in Northwest Raleigh. In 1996, the land was donated by the Wooten family for the use of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway.

Wooten Meadow Park is currently mostly undeveloped, with 70 percent of the land restricted by its location within a floodplain. Existing park features include a park sign, small parking area (accessed from Millbrook), swing-set, and a multi-use open field. More information about existing conditions of the park, including its natural elements and historic usages, can be found in the draft Systems Integration Plan.

Site and project information will be available beginning Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at:

- The Northwest citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, 7PM, Northwest Police District, 8016 Glenwood Avenue
- Launch of the Project Webpage (Go to www.raleighnc.gov and search "Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan")

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan Process

The project team will work with citizens to develop a Master Plan that builds on park design concepts and recommends park features and development stages. Wooten Meadow Park is classified as a neighborhood park and, as such, will fully consider recreation needs within walking distance to the site.

There are several phases in the Master Plan process:



```
graph LR; A((Site and Community Assessment)) --> B((Public Draft Period)); B --> C((Master Plan Approval));
```

The project is currently in the Site and Community Assessment phase, through 2014. The entire Master Plan process will take approximately 15 months to complete. A Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) will be appointed by the Raleigh City Council to represent community interests, establish community consensus, and direct the Master Plan process. In addition to the CPC meetings, several public workshops will be held throughout 2015 to further involve the community.

Funding in the amount of \$115,000 has been allocated for the Master Plan phase. There is limited funding currently designated to advance the master plan into a first phase of site improvements.

 www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan

Appendix C: Community Survey

Hardcopies of the Community Survey were distributed at the Northwest CAC meeting on September 9, 2014. It was also available for download on the project webpage and was also available through a link to an online version supported by Constant Contact.

The image shows a screenshot of a community survey form titled "Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan Community Survey". The form is designed with a blue and green color scheme. It includes a header with the project name, a section for household information with radio button options for age, household size, and children, and a section for park experience with radio button options for visit frequency and preferred access point. The form is presented as a document with horizontal lines for text input and radio buttons for selection.

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Community Survey

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department invites you to provide feedback on the future plans for Wooten Meadow Park located in Northwest Raleigh, at the intersection of West Millbrook and Leesville Roads (2801 West Millbrook Road). The City is undertaking a master planning effort for the park. The information collected from the following survey will help guide the project team in the planning process. Thank you for your time and participation.

Please fill out this survey and submit it to the email address noted at the end of the survey. If you would like to complete this survey online please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/WMMPSurvey>

Household Information

Name (Optional) _____

Address or Neighborhood _____

How long have you lived in your current address?
 Less than a year 1-3 years 4-6 years 7+ years

What is your age?
 Under 18 18-40 years 40-60 Over 60

How many adults in your household?
 1 2 3 4+

How many children in your household?
 0 1 2 3 4+

Is there a group or organization that you can represent?
 Yes No Name of organization: _____

Your Wooten Meadow Park Experience, Ideas, and Interests

Please summarize your knowledge level of and experience with Wooten Meadow Park. _____

How often do you visit Wooten Meadow Park?
 Weekly Monthly Annually I do not visit Wooten Meadow

How would you ideally get to Wooten Meadow Park?
 Walk Bike Drive Your preferred access point? _____

 www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

What types of activities do you currently engage in at Wooten Meadow Park?

- Run/Walk/Exercise Open Play Nature Exploration Other: (please describe) _____

What are the biggest needs and challenges that you see in the neighborhoods surrounding Wooten Meadow Park? _____

What types of activities can you imagine at Wooten Meadow Park? _____

Do you know of specific groups interested in Wooten Meadow Park as a space for potential use? If so, please help us identify them as potential stakeholders. _____

Please indicate if you have information to share about historic uses, site conditions, or other topics that the Master Plan should explore. _____

What types of issues should be addressed in the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan?

- Safety Water Retention/flooding Preservation of Natural Settings
 Children's Activities Social Engagement Other: (please describe) _____

What types of amenities would you like to see at Wooten Meadow Park?

- Playground Walking/Running Trails Park Benches Shelters
 Multi-use Courts Multi-use Fields Other: (Please describe) _____

What other comments or ideas do you have on the future of Wooten Meadow Park? _____



www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Existing Parks/Greenway System Usage

Do you use the Capital Area Greenway System? Yes No

If yes, which greenway do you use most often? Where do you access it? _____

When on the greenway, what types of activities do you engage in?

Run/Walk Biking Nature Exploration

What other City of Raleigh Parks do you visit? _____

What types of activities do you engage in at other City of Raleigh parks?

Run/Walk/Exercise Play Ball Games Community/Social Gatherings Organized Sports

Use Playgrounds Other: (please describe) _____

Opportunities for Further Participation

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is soliciting volunteers to serve on a Citizen's Planning Committee to lead the development of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan. The committee will be appointed by the Raleigh City Council as early as November 2014 and is expected to meet on a bi-monthly basis through 2015. Are you interested in serving on this committee?

Yes No

If interested, please provide your name and the best method to contact you?

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

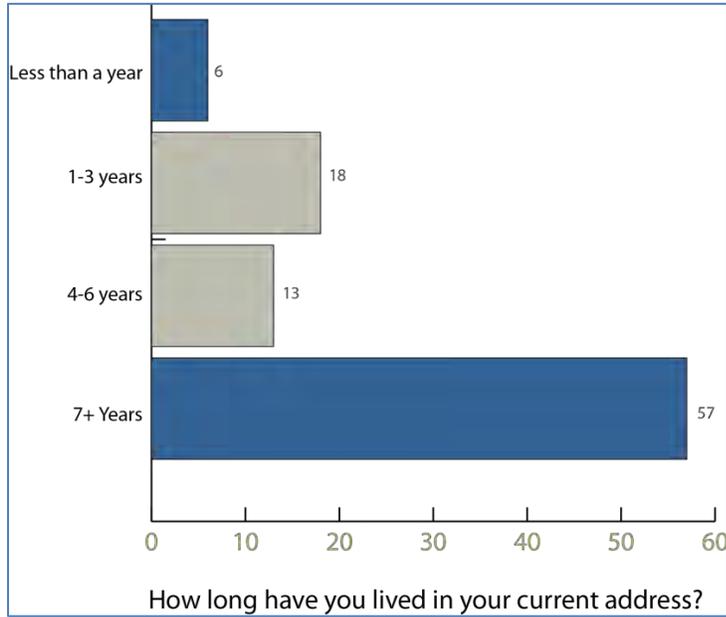
The City of Raleigh would like to ensure that the concerns of those living in the surrounding area are represented in the planning process. Please identify any additional individuals or groups/organizations you think would be interested in the Citizen's Planning Committee or should be contacted regarding the future of Wooten Meadow Park. _____

Questions or Comments? Please contact Matthew Keough, City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource, at Matthew.Keough@raleighnc.gov
919.996.2654

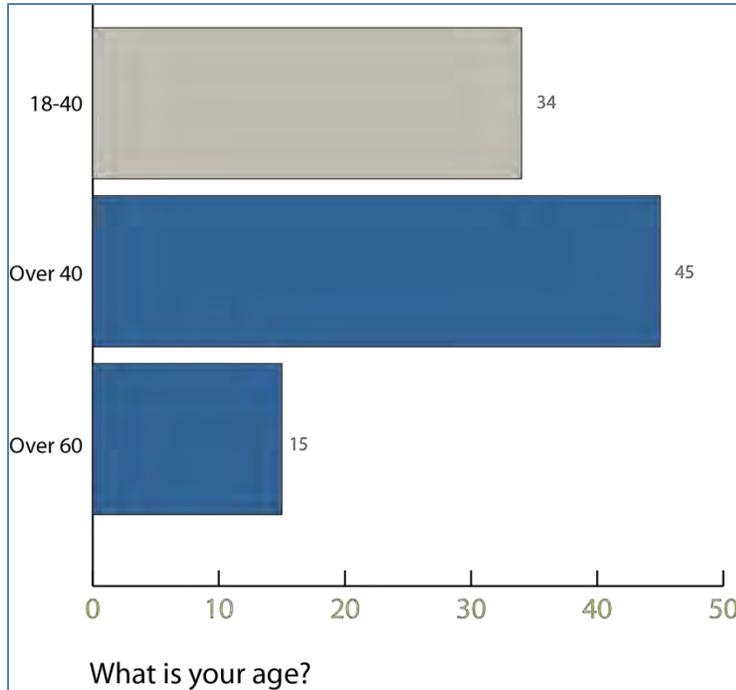


www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan

Appendix D: Community Survey Results

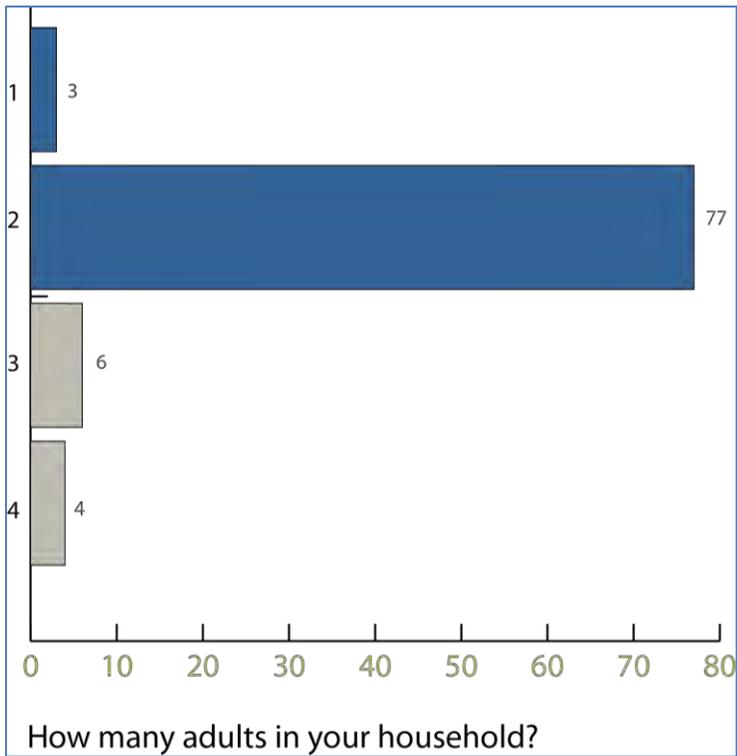


Question 3

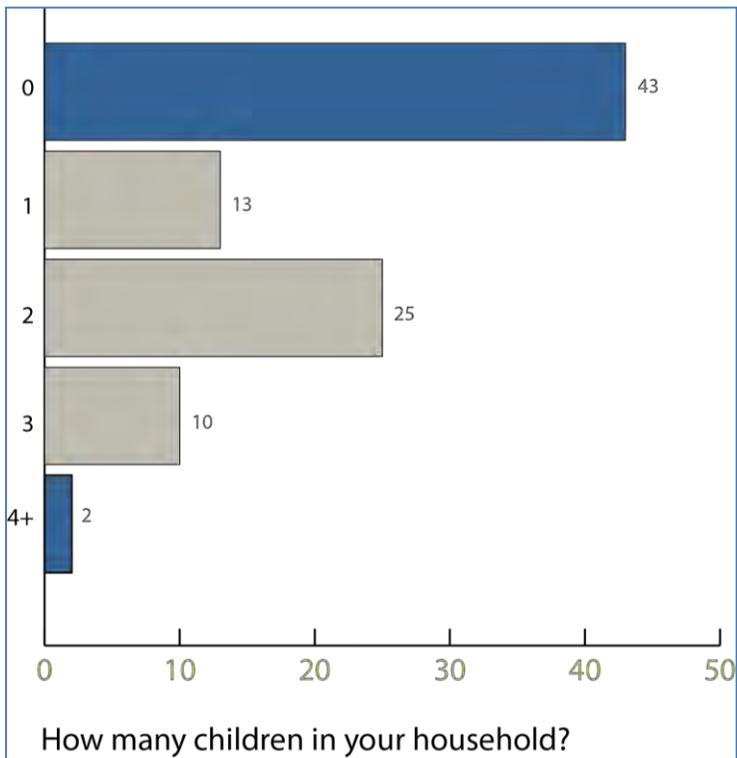


Question 4

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

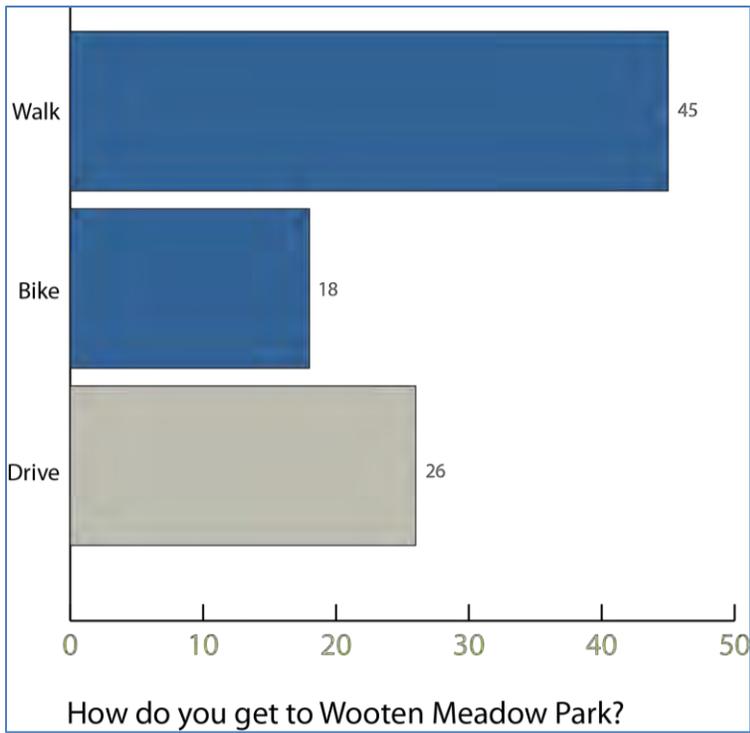


Question 5

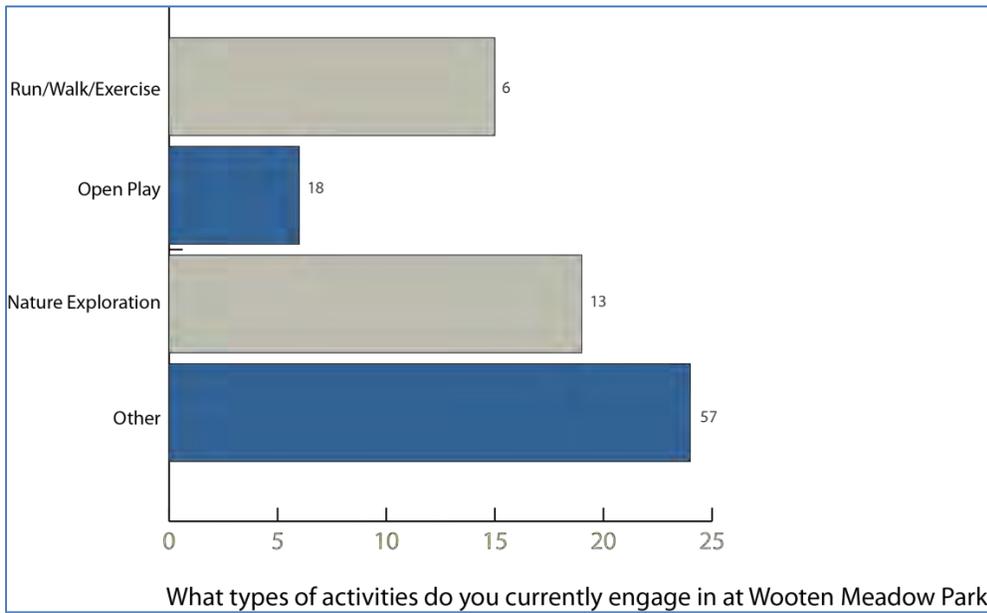


Question 6

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

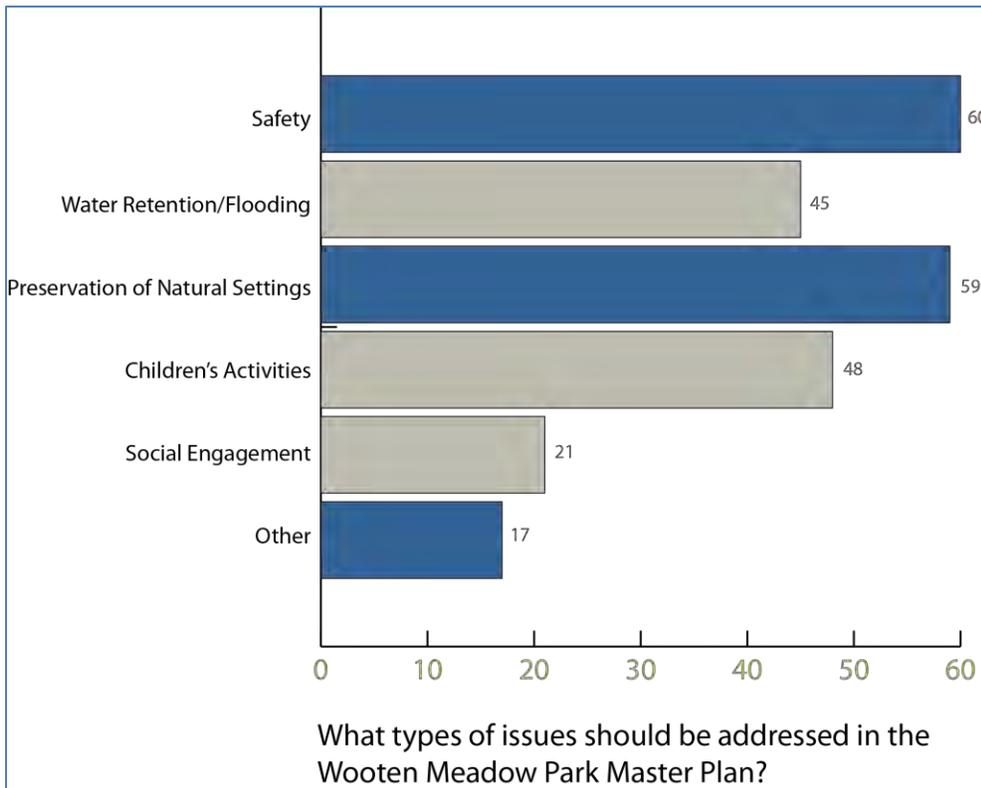


Question 10

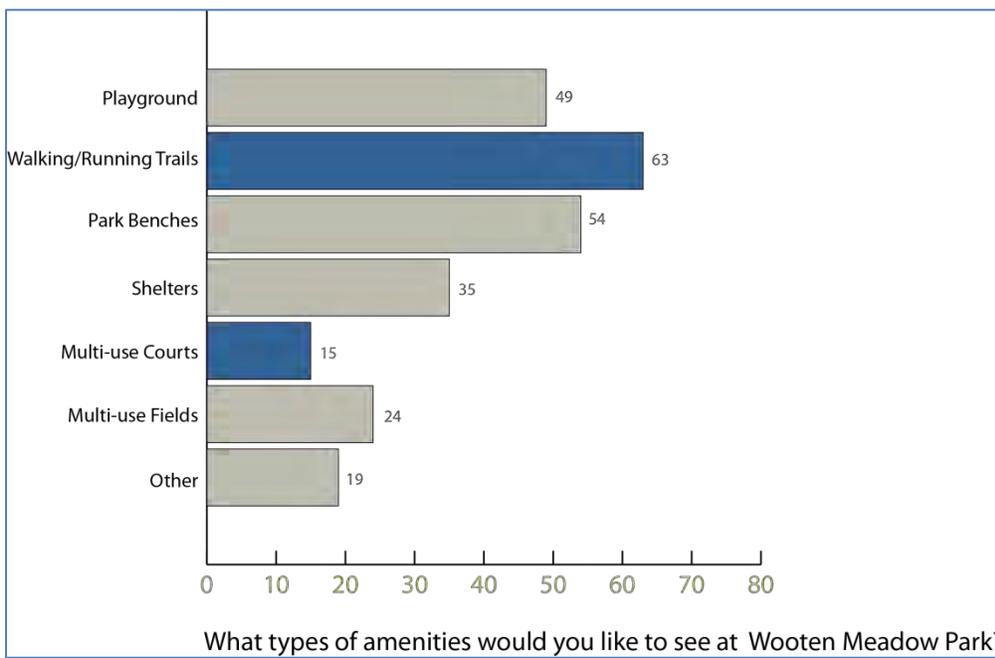


Question 11

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

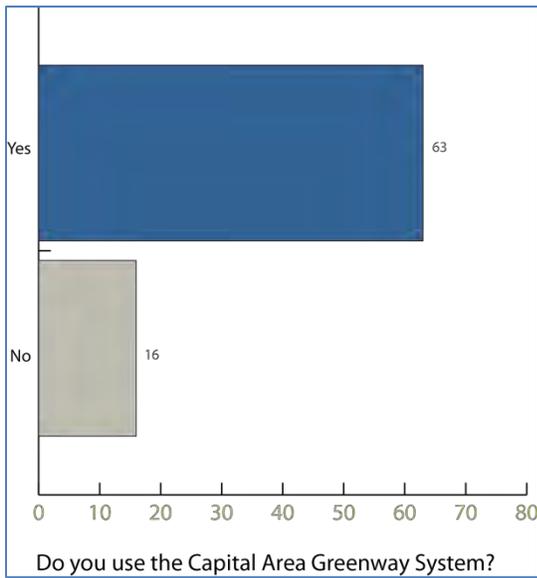


Question 16

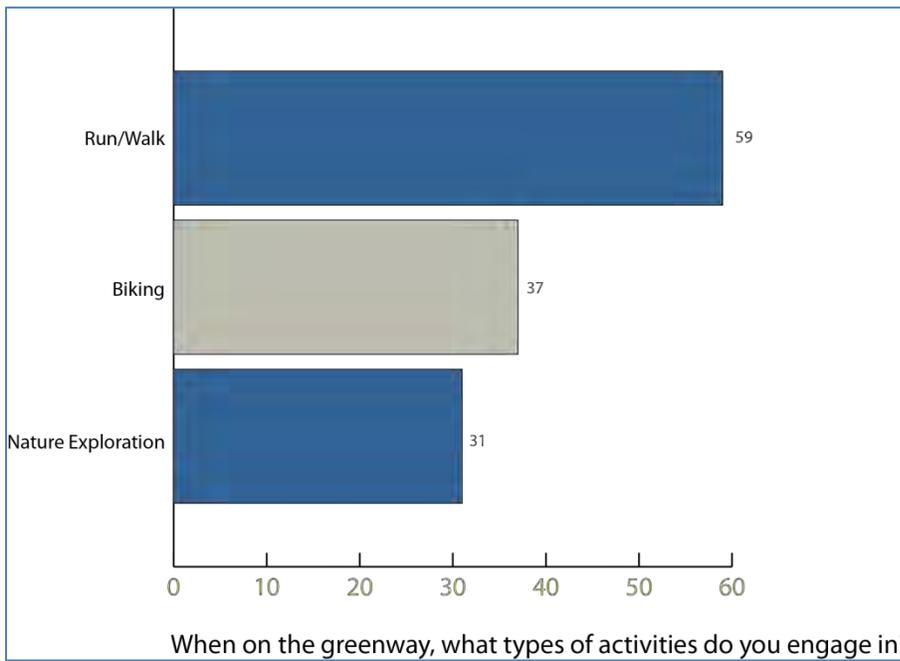


Question 17

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

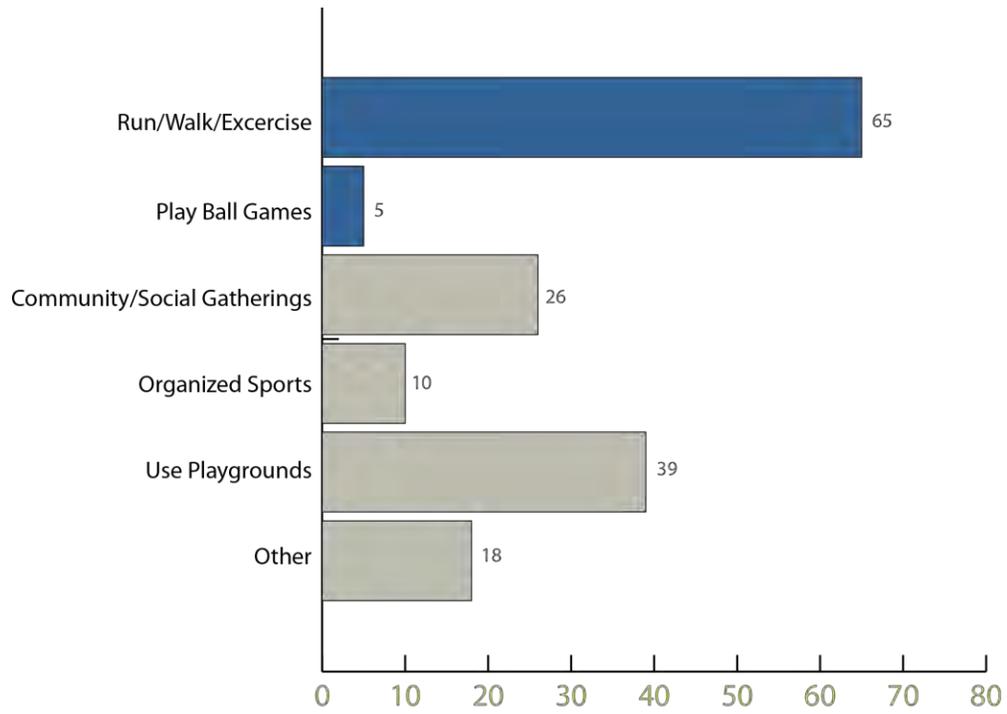


Question 19



Question 21

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan



What types of activities do you engage in at other City of Raleigh Parks?

Question 23

Appendix E: Community Interviews

Name	Organization
Ashley Davis	Brookhaven Resident, Adjacent Property Owner
Anne Clap	Brookhaven Resident, Adjacent Property Owner
William Hubbard	The Timbers Apartment Homes, Property Manager
Eric Lamb	City of Raleigh, Office of Transportation
Kelvin Morgan	City of Raleigh, Parks Department
Jason Wilkinson	Brookhaven Resident, Adjacent Property Owner
Louis Wooten	Wooten Family

Appendix F: Community Interview Guide

Name: _____

Organization represented: _____

Have you taken the Community Survey? Yes No

1. Please describe your familiarity or knowledge of Wooten Meadow Park?

2. What is your understanding of the community's interests or concerns regarding the future of Wooten Meadow Park?

3. Are you familiar with any historic uses at Wooten Meadow Park? Please describe.

4. Are you aware of any potential community concerns surrounding the project or in the area? Please describe.

5. Are you familiar with any future projects or initiatives that may change the community needs or concerns? This may include development, infrastructure expansion, or transportation projects.

6. If it were left up to you, what future would you see for the park?

7. Are there any individuals and groups/organizations that you think should be engaged in the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan process?

8. What engagement opportunities have you experienced to be the most successful for engaging and connecting with the citizens living in this area? For example – emails, postcards, signage, etc.

*W*ooten Meadow Park Master Plan

9. Please provide any other comments or ideas that you have for the Wooten Meadow Park.

10. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is soliciting volunteers to serve on a Citizen Planning Committee to lead in the development of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan. The committee will be appointed by the Raleigh City Council as early as November 2014 and is expected to meet on a bi-monthly schedule through 2015. Are you interested in serving on this committee or can you identify any individuals you believe should be considered for this committee?

11. The City of Raleigh would like to ensure that the concerns of those living in the surrounding area are represented in the planning process. Please identify any additional groups/organizations you think would be interested in the Citizen Planning Committee or should be contacted regarding the future of Wooten Meadow Park.

Appendix G: Potential CPC Member Interview Guide

Name: _____

Street/Neighborhood: _____

Organization represented: _____

Years lived in current address: Less than a year 1-3 years 4-6 years 7+ years

Age group: Under 18 18-40 years 40-60 Over 60

Adults in household: 1 2 3 4+

Children in household: 0 1 2 3 4+

1. Please describe how you and/or your family use City of Raleigh parks and/or greenways. For example, what parks do you regularly visit? How often do you visit? What activities do you like to engage in while visiting?

2. What role do you believe parks play in the community?

3. What needs do you believe should be considered in planning a park?

4. Please describe your familiarity with and/or your experiences with Wooten Meadow Park?

5. What is your understanding of the community's interests or concerns regarding the future of Wooten Meadow Park?

6. What interests or concerns from the community do you feel you can well represent?

7. Why are you interested in serving on the Citizen Planning Committee?

8. What special knowledge, skills, or interests do you have that you feel would help the committee?

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

- 9. What is your comfort level participating in a larger group or team setting?
- 10. What type of role do you typically play in a group setting?
- 11. Have you ever been involved in a group that worked together to resolve a problem? If yes, please describe the role you played and how the group was able to reach a decision.
- 12. It is expected that the CPC will meet several times over the course of the project. This will include up to seven CPC meetings, up to four public workshops, and one City Council meeting. These meetings are all part of the participation process and consistent attendance will be essential for your understanding of the project and feedback for the project team. What are the best days and times for you to meet?

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MORNING						
AFTERNOON						
EVENING						

- 13. Can you anticipate any obligations that may limit your participation in the project?
- 14. What other comments do you have regarding your interest in this project?

**APPENDIX C: CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHARTER**

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan Citizen Planning Committee Draft Charter

A. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 21.1 acre site is located at the southern corner of the intersection of Leesville Road and Millbrook Road in northwest Raleigh. The land was donated by the Wooten family in 1996 for the use of the citizens of Raleigh as a park and/or greenway. As a donation, the property came to the city without a master plan. Interim uses have dominated the park's history. The City of Raleigh initiated the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan process on September 9, 2014 at the Northwest Citizen Advisory Council meeting. The Public Planning phase of the project was authorized by the Raleigh City Council on November 18, 2014 with approval of the System Integration Plan (SIP), Situational Assessment (SA), and the recommended members of the Citizen Planning Committee (CPC).

Wooten Meadow Park is mostly undeveloped, with 70 percent of the land restricted by its location within a floodplain. Existing park features include a park sign, small parking area (accessed from Millbrook Road,) swing-set (currently being relocated,) and multi-use open meadow. More information about existing conditions of the park, including its natural elements, existing utility easements, and historic usages, can be found in the System Integration Plan.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan CPC is to provide recommendations to the Raleigh Parks Recreation Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) for a Park Master Plan that will best meet the needs of the community, as determined through community consensus reached in CPC deliberations. The CPC will work to enhance the community involvement process for the project, sharing project information with communities and interest groups and encouraging community participation and involvement in the process. There are four major goals of the consensus process:

1. To provide CPC members with a process of discovery, information sharing, and education.
2. To provide CPC members with a direct role in developing, reviewing, and discussing the program and elements necessary to support the proposed Master Plan.
3. To provide CPC members with a direct role in shaping agreements that resolve issues and balance interests relative to the development of Wooten Meadow Park.
4. To take measures to inform the public and those ultimately responsible for approving the Final Plan about the topics being addressed in the process.



C. FINAL PRODUCTS

The CPC will provide direction for the development of four key products:

1. Program Statement
2. Draft Master Plan
3. Priorities for Phased Development
4. Proposed Master Plan

A **Program Statement** describes the overall vision for the park, including uses, sensitivity to natural elements, identity, history, and other characteristics deemed appropriate. The Program Statement will be consistent with the SIP and the Parks, Recreation and Greenways Comprehensive Plan Elements. The Program Statement will include reference to the ecological significance and functions of the site and its relationship to the larger citywide and countywide context.

Based on the Program Statement, the design professionals will develop alternative site-related diagrams representing a range of Plan Alternatives. The CPC will select the concept that best accomplishes the Program Statement goals, as well as having the opportunity to further develop the alternatives presented or propose new alternatives of their own.

The **Draft Master Plan** shall include the conceptual plan rendering, the Program Statement, other background information as appropriate, a written description of the intent of the Plan concept proposed, including the established elements of other previously adopted Plans, as well as recommendations for environmental stewardship of the park site and development of the park project.

The CPC shall identify **Priorities** for phased development of the project, with consideration given to information on existing and anticipated funding.

The Program Statement, Draft Plan, and Phasing Priorities will be made available for public review and comment. The CPC will address comments received and develop a **Proposed Master Plan**. The Proposed Master Plan will include the final conceptual plan rendering, program statement, other background information as appropriate, written description of the intent of the Plan concept proposed, and recommendations for phased development of the park project, as well as the established elements of other previously adopted master plans. The Proposed Master Plan will be forwarded to the PRGAB for their consideration.

D. AUTHORITY OF THE CPC

The Wooten Meadow Park CPC reports its conclusions to the PRGAB. The CPC's Program Statements, Proposed Master Plan, and Priorities may be recommended for City Council approval, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the PRGAB. In either case, the intact proposed Master Plan from the CPC will be forwarded to City Council with any specific amendment recommendations from the PRGAB.

E. CPC MEMBERS' REPRESENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Representation



The CPC is made up of persons representing varying interest groups or individuals who live in or near the project area and or who may be affected by the proposed park development. The membership of the committee reflects demographics of the area including age, race, ethnicity, gender, and tenure of residence, as well as educational background, professional and/or personal experience, and other relevant qualifications related to the characteristics of this proposed park. Official members of the CPC have been appointed by the City Council, as recommended by the PRGAB.

CPC Members will be expected to represent the interests of (1) themselves, (2) local community as expressed to the CPC member, and, (3) organizations that authorize the CPC Member to represent them.

2. Responsibilities

Deliberating in Good Faith

The primary responsibility of a CPC member is to find a balance of community interests and participate in the development of the Proposed Plan. CPC members will endeavor in good faith to develop a consensus that is satisfactory to all CPC members. CPC members will share information with community members and report community interests with other CPC members. CPC members will ensure an integrated approach is taken in drafting the Master Plan through meetings, communications, and collaboration that includes all CPC members.

Representing the Community

In developing a Draft Master Plan, CPC members will consider community interests when reviewing issues and recommendations. CPC members will invite proposals from their communities to present to the CPC and will provide CPC proposals for community feedback and input.

Attending Meetings

Each CPC member is expected to attend and fully participate in each meeting. CPC members shall read appropriate materials prior to each meeting and arrive prepared to work. Materials presented for discussion will be distributed at least one week in advance of the meeting, as practical.

3. Appointment, Withdrawal and Replacement

If a committee member withdraws from the CPC, the remaining members should review whether the view points and stakeholders associated with the departing member can be adequately represented through the remainder of the planning process. If the CPC member desires to appoint a replacement, the concurrence of the Committee will be sought. If the member is unable to appoint a replacement, the City may consider a replacement member to represent an identified interest or neighborhood. Replacement member information will be provided to the leadership of the PRGAB for acceptance on behalf of the City.



F. PUBLIC INPUT

As the CPC is representative of a cross-section of the community, including community organizations and affiliations, CPC members are encouraged to report on project issues to and solicit feedback from others who live in the project area, as well as interest groups and organizations operating in the area. The CPC will also receive all public comments received by the project team.

Several specific guidelines for public input are listed below for this project:

- All CPC meetings are open to observation by the public.
- A public comment period will occur at the beginning of each CPC meeting (after meeting summary and agenda approval).
- Anyone hoping to speak during the above-noted public comment period shall be asked to sign up at the meeting entrance prior to the meeting. It is the expectation of the CPC that the Facilitator and/or City will inquire of those signed up to speak about their topic and ensure the topic's relevance to that meeting's agenda.
- A CPC member public information sharing period will occur at the beginning of each CPC meeting (after meeting summary agenda approval).
- The above-noted public comment and CPC member public information sharing period will be capped at a 20-minute total. Individual public comments and sharing comments will be limited to two minutes per person.
- The City of Raleigh will also host a MindMixer site for the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan (via the City's 'Your Parks Your Future' website). It is expected that periodic questions will be posted to elicit a community conversation. The analysis and data collected from those online conversations will be brought back to CPC meetings by the Facilitator and/or City for facilitated discussion during set agenda times.
- Members of the public who attend meetings will be asked to abide by the following ground rules:
 1. Only one person will speak at a time and no one will interrupt when another person is speaking.
 2. Each person will express his or her own views rather than speaking for others.
 3. No one will make personal attacks or issue statements blaming others for specific actions or outcomes. If a personal attack is made, the Facilitator may ask the members to refrain from personal attacks.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FACILITATOR

The roles and responsibilities of the Facilitator includes:

- Facilitating meetings in a manner consistent with interest-based negotiations and this charter.
- Handling meeting logistics.
- Keeping meeting attendance records of all CPC Members.
- Organizing a meeting agenda that meets the needs of the CPC and the process.



- Helping the CPC stay on task and on process.
- Protecting participants (CPC members and the public) and their ideas from attack, while ensuring that provocative issues are not avoided, but are discussed in a candid and respectful manner.
- Helping CPC members to concisely describe their interests.
- Helping CPC members find innovative and workable solutions.
- Helping CPC members reach consensus agreement.
- Providing for equitable participation by all CPC members.
- Working, both at and between meetings to assist in the free exchange of ideas between the members and to resolve any impasses that may arise.
- Periodically surveying a sampling of CPC Members to assess fairness, meaningfulness, and efficiency of the process.
- Maintaining a list of significant topics on which the CPC has reached consensus or have failed to reach consensus.
- In conjunction with departmental staff's responsibility as the contact point and spokesperson for the process, the Facilitator will help keep the public informed about the opportunities for involvement and progress of project.
- At the end of every meeting, the Facilitator shall be expected to wrap-up and confirm all agreements/decisions made during the meeting.
- At the end of every meeting, the Facilitator is expected to discuss and confirm next steps achieved in the meeting.

H. MEETING SUMMARIES AND AGENDAS

1. Meeting Summaries

The Facilitator will develop meeting summaries within 14 days following the CPC meetings and the City will notify CPC members of their availability. E-mailed summaries via pdf format will be the primary, and is the preferred form of information dispersal and correspondence within the CPC. There is also the option of having material faxed or mailed to those who do not have email or web access. Summaries shall include an attendance record, a summary of actions taken at the meeting, and other information pertaining to the deliberations and discussions.

At the beginning of each meeting, discussion of new substantive issues will not commence until the summary of the preceding meeting is reviewed (and/or amended) and approved. At the end of every meeting, the Facilitator shall be expected to wrap up and confirm all agreements and/or decisions made during the meeting, thus to ensure they are compiled as part of the meeting summary.

2. Agendas

CPC members have until two weeks before the next meeting to provide input on the agenda. Agendas will be created by the Facilitator. They will be distributed by the City to the CPC members in draft format one week prior to the upcoming meeting. Final agendas including any



added topics will be approved by the CPC at the start of each meeting prior to the opportunities for public comment.

It is the CPC's expectation that the Facilitator will manage the agenda as follows:

- The Facilitator will develop draft meeting agendas prior to each meeting per the schedule noted above.
- The Facilitator shall set an agenda for each meeting that clearly outlines the objectives of the upcoming meeting.
- At the beginning of each meeting, the Facilitator shall make any adjustments requested by the CPC per the above discussion.
- At the end of each meeting, the CPC will identify tentative agenda topics for the forthcoming meeting.

I. DECISION PROCESS

The CPC will operate by consensus of all members represented at the meeting. A quorum (50% of the members plus 1) must be present to determine a consensus point. Consensus is the decision rule that allows collaborative problem solving to work. It is a way for more than two people to reach agreement. Consensus prevents domination by the majority, allows building of trust, and the sharing of information, especially under conditions of conflict. Consensus does not mean that everyone will be equally happy with the decision, but rather there is general agreement and support that the best decisions or recommendations that can be made at the time have been made with the people involved.

Consensus requires the sharing information. This leads to mutual education, which provides the basis for crafting workable and acceptable alternatives. Consensus promotes joint thinking of a diverse group and leads to creative solutions. Moreover, because parties participate openly in the deliberation, they understand the reasoning behind the recommendations and are willing to support them. The focus for each stakeholder should be making good decisions on behalf of his or her constituency, not simply to reach agreement.

In making decisions, each CPC member will indicate his/her concurrence on a specific proposal using a five-point scale. The scale allows CPC members to clearly communicate their intentions, assess the degree of agreement that exists for a particular proposal, and register their dissatisfaction without delaying up the rest of the CPC. The five-point scale is as follows:

1. Endorsement – Member fully supports it.
2. Endorsement with minor point of contention – Member likes it and supports it.
3. Agreement with minor reservations – Member can live with it and supports it.
4. Stand aside with major reservations – Formal disagreement, but will not block or hold up the proposal/provision. There are two ways to that a four may be recorded, either as an 'I abstain' or 'I require more information'.
5. Block – Member will not support the proposed plan.



If all efforts have been made to arrive at full consensus, but it appears that the CPC will not be able to achieve it, the group may choose to proceed with less than consensus in order to achieve progress. In the event of lack of consensus, the CPC will:

- a) Allow time for the dissenting parties to express their concerns and rationale, and alternative points of view;
- b) Note the range of views presented on the decision or proposal at hand and record those views in the meeting summaries; and,
- c) Make clear in any verbal or written communications that the decision to proceed with less than consensus was made in order to proceed, but that consensus was not achieved.

The Facilitator will measure the CPC's consensus on a given proposal by open polling of the members present. The levels of consensus are:

- Consensus - All CPC members present rate the proposal as a 1, 2 or 3.
- Consensus with Major Reservations – All CPC Members present rate the proposal as a 1, 2 or 3, except at least one CPC member rates it as a 4.
- No Consensus - Any CPC member present rates the proposal as a 5.

At the conclusion of a process, a final report will document the level at which individuals or groups supported the final product. All recommendations, major reservations, and the full lack of support to implement recommendations or decisions will be documented. This information will be documented in meeting summaries and the final report provided to the PRGAB and City Council.

J. GROUND RULES FOR INTERACTION

In order to have the most efficient and effective process possible, CPC members will follow these basic ground rules:

During the Meetings – for Facilitated Discussion

- Raise hand to be recognized by the Facilitator.
- Speak one at a time in meetings as recognized by the Facilitator. Everyone will participate, but none will dominate.
- Be concise and stick to the topics on the meeting agenda (Facilitator may incorporate time limits as needed). Speak only on one topic per entry (no laundry lists).
- Speak to the whole group when talking.
- Avoid side conversations.
- Avoid off-topic questions.
- Treat each other, the organizations represented in the CPC, and the CPC itself with respect at all times.
- Refrain from interrupting.
- Monitor your own participation – everyone should participate, but none should dominate.
- Adhere to the agenda and time schedule with diligence.



- Put cell phones on “vibrate” and leave the room when a call is received.
- Be prepared to start on time.
- Recognize that everyone’s interests are important.
- Avoid repetitiveness (i.e., one-track-mind behavior).
- Agree that it is okay to disagree, and disagree without being disagreeable.
- Avoid “cheap shots” and/or sarcasm.
- Refrain from hostility and antagonism.
- Leave personal agendas and “baggage” at the door and put personal differences aside in the interest of a successful CPC.
- Focus on the problem, not the person.

Throughout the Planning Process

- Adhere to the charter and the City’s Public Participation Guidelines, Policy, and Manual.
- Review information and stay informed.
- Work as team players and share all relevant information. Ask for necessary information.
- Encourage free thinking. Offer mutually beneficial solutions.
- Encourage candid, frank discussions. Be honest and tactful. Avoid surprises.
- Openly express any disagreement or concern with all other CPC Members.
- Focus on the problem, not the person.
- Actively strive to see the other points of view.
- Follow through on commitments.
- Share information discussed in the meeting with the organizations and constituents represented and bring back to the CPC the opinions and actions of their constituencies as appropriate.
- Communicate the requirements of this charter with the organizations they represent to minimize the possibility of actions contrary to the charter.
- Commit to issues in which they have an interest.
- Support and actively engage in the CPC’s decision process.

K. SCHEDULE AND DURATION

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department initiated a Park Master Plan process for Wooten Meadow Park in September 2014. The entire process is estimated to be 15 months long, with a goal of an adopted plan by the end of 2015.

It is expected that up to eight (8) CPC meetings and four (4) public workshops will be held throughout the course of the project.

L. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CHARTER

Changes to the charter can be made at any meeting of the CPC by consensus voting as outlined above.



**APPENDIX D: CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARIES**

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: December 10, 2014
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Lake Lynn Community Center

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough; Melissa Salter

CPC Members: Stephanie Avett, Maggie Barlow, Carol Claggett, Michael Durham, Kevin Kirton, Caroline Landon, Ryan Moore, Carole Sawicki, Steve Sherriff, Ralph Sherwin, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprankle, Julie White, Alison Wilkinson, Laurie Williams

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (persons not in attendance at meeting):

Consultant Team: Stephen Ellsperman (DHM Design); Becky Ward (Ward Consulting Engineers)

CPC Members: Rodger Koopman; Jennifer Hoverstad; Eric Childs; Hobert Orton

1. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

A. Matthew Keough provided a welcome, reviewed the project team

2. GROUP INTRODUCTION AND EXERCISE

- A. DHM introduced the committee’s first activity
- a. Purpose of the activity was to answer ‘What does a successful park at Wooten Meadow look like to you?’
 - b. Meeting participants were provided a matrix including the names of all CPC members.
- B. Attending Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) members participated in the activity:
- a. Time was allotted for individual, small group, and large group discussion.
 - b. Completed matrix with answers from all participants.
 - c. The following themes were noted during the group discussion:
 - i. Sense of community.
 - ii. Respect for nature.
 - iii. Unique from other parks.
 - iv. Safety.
 - v. In good keeping with surrounding community.
 - vi. Being a good neighbor.
 - vii. Greenway.
 - viii. Preserving wildlife/nature.
 - ix. Passive/peaceful.
 - x. Friendly.
 - xi. Play.
 - xii. Accessible to multiple ages.
 - xiii. Opportunities for everyone.

DHM DESIGN

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- A. DHM introduced the project, including:
 - a. Master Plan definition and process
 - b. Defining the purpose, role, and goals of the CPC
 - c. Introduce and practice the Consensus Seeking Process, Scale, and Levels
 - d. Overview upcoming CPC meeting goals
- B. CPC members were invited to ask questions and engage in a dialogue.
 - a. One CPC member asked when site development costs would be available. DHM state that these will be available in the final phases of the process.
 - b. Another asked if there are any external constraints, particularly in regards to budget for park development. DHM and City of Raleigh explained that there are no budgetary restraints. The Master Plan is done first, setting both development goals and probable cost required for future funding. The final phase of the master plan process will include a prioritization activity with value development judgments (with possible monetary implications.)
 - c. A member shared the understanding the role of the CPC is to become experts and to determine what features or amenities are best for the park and the community. The City of Raleigh explained that the role of the committee is to establish community consensus through deliberations at their official meetings. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded in whole to the City Council, not altered by any recommendation of staff, Park Board, or other group. Once approved by Council, a Master Plan cannot be changed without a completely new Master Plan revision process, per adopted policy.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT CHARTER

- A. DHM briefly reviewed the purpose of a charter.
- B. CPC members then discussed the draft charter as a small group, focusing on questions regarding logistics, public comment, or other line items in the charter.
- C. As a group, the following items were discussed:
 - a. Logistics:
 - i. Email invitation preferred.
 - ii. Send documents in PDF format.
 - b. Meeting Summaries
 - i. Deadline is within two weeks of meeting.
 - ii. Do not record names but document what was said within the meeting.
 - iii. Approval will occur at the beginning of the next meeting.
 - c. Meetings
 - i. Need to have 50 percent plus one present in order to hold a consensus vote within a meeting (11 people).
 - ii. RSVP expected, with regrets only to Matthew.Keough@raleighnc.gov in advance.
 - iii. Meetings are capped at two hours.
 - d. Public Feedback
 - i. CPC will share feedback or comments collected between meetings at the beginning of each meeting during an Open Floor period.
 - ii. Open Floor time will be capped at 20 minutes total with two minutes per speaker suggested.
 - iii. Members of the public will be asked to sign in and state the topic they would like to discuss.
 - iv. Mind Mixer: City of Raleigh will follow up soon with more information on this opportunity to engage the public on questions needing public deliberation.

- e. Flyers, handouts, and official electronic notification packages will be provided by the Project Team to assist CPC members promote the park and public meetings.
- D. Consensus was not reached at this meeting. It was decided that the draft charter would be updated to reflect the points made above and re-circulated to the CPC, and revisited at CPC Meeting #2.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Five minutes were provided for public comment.
- B. No public comments were received.
- C. No one on CPC shared concerns or comments that they had collected prior to meeting.

6. EXISTING CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

- A. Melissa Salter and DHM provided an overview of the site features.
- B. Melissa discussed the SIP and its guidance for managing the park site from now through possible park development (interim management strategies).
- C. Melissa noted the importance of cultural resources and need for further investigation into the location and details of where and what the cultural and historical resources on the site are, the prevalence of invasive species mixed with an abundance of native floodplain and wetland species, the important role of ephemeral wetlands and wildlife habitat on portions of the site.
- D. Graham discussed park analysis phase that has begun – the synthesis of the data into helping make decisions about planning and development opportunities.

7. WRAP-UP

- A. Homework Assignment
 - a. CPC members were provided two aerial maps of the park site or the areas surrounding the site.
 - b. CPC members were asked to do any of the following:
 - Possibly visit the park between meetings, noting features of interest and prepare general observations or discussion points.
 - Possibly view the park from different places/properties/roads surrounding the site, noting views and general observations.
 - Do desktop research on site history, site natural features, or anything else related to the project site.
- B. Next Steps
 - a. The Project Team will send the CPC an updated Charter and meeting summary within two weeks.
 - b. The Project Team will send the CPC potential meeting dates for CPC #2 soon.
 - c. The next meeting date will be confirmed when the previous meeting summary is sent out.
 - c. One member asked about yard signs for CPC members. The City of Raleigh will follow up soon with that information.

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: February 2, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Lake Lynn Community Center

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough; Todd Milam; Shawsheen Baker; Diane Sauer

CPC Members: Stephanie Avett, Maggie Barlow, Carol Clagett, Michael Durham, Kevin Kirton, Caroline Landon, Ryan Moore, Carole Sawicki, Steve Sheriff, Ralph Sherwin, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprinkle, Julie White, Alison Wilkinson, Jennifer Hoverstad; Eric Childs; Hobert Orton

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (persons not in attendance at meeting):

Consultant Team: Stephen Ellsperman (DHM Design); Becky Ward (Ward Consulting Engineers)

CPC Members: Rodger Koopman; Ralph Sherwin; Laurie Williams

1. WELCOME/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Matthew Keough welcomed all committee members and visitors and noted their participation efforts.
- B. DHM (Kara) sought review and approval of CPC Meeting #1 Meeting Summary. Consensus gained – all members voted 1.
- C. DHM (Graham) discussed several questions that had come up since the past CPC meeting:
 - a. What is the City of Raleigh’s Park System Plan and what is its relationship to this park?
 - i. Graham noted the Plan’s recent approval by City Council (May 2014.) Graham noted that Wooten Meadow is noted as a park within the plan. (Additional information is available upon request, to include relevant open space, natural features, and park planning policies.)
 - b. What is the City of Raleigh’s Comprehensive Plan and what is its relationship to this park?
 - i. Graham noted that the “Comp Plan” was approved by City Council in 2009. The plan focused on urbanizing Raleigh’s main corridors (not Millbrook or Leesville Roads.) After the Comprehensive Plan was approved, the City rewrote the development code – now known as the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Currently the City is wrapping up its UDO implementation which will rezone about 1/3 of the city (commercial, industrial and mixed use areas) and protect low density residential areas. All of these plans identify Wooten Meadow as a park, and the park’s surrounding land uses reflect existing residential development and open space. (The Comp Plan contains broad policy guidance for all city plans and actions; among the plan’s 12 Elements, there is a “Parks, Recreation, and Open Space” element.)
 - c. What is the role of the CPC – can you help with a little more clarity?
 - i. Graham reiterated that the role is to guide the park’s master planning process, assist in gathering input, and representing community interests throughout the process.
 - d. What is the difference between greenway easements and utility easements? What easements currently exist on the site?
 - i. Graham noted that there are no greenway easements currently on the park site. However, the City of Raleigh Greenway Master Plan shows a greenway corridor along

both sides of Hare Snipe Creek for planning purposes (and for the purpose of exacting greenway easement in on impacted parcels whenever a development plat is submitted to the City for approval.)

- ii. Graham noted that there is a 50-foot greenway easement on “The Timbers”, the adjacent apartment property to the northwest. It runs parallel to Hare Snipe Creek. It was dedicated by the developer when the parcel was proposed for apartments. Graham noted that it may or may not make sense to use that easement for trail location due to its location “across the creek” as well as topographic challenges there.
- iii. Graham showed the multitude of sanitary sewer easements on the park site, entering/exiting the park through the surrounding neighborhood. These are currently set up as utility easements and not access easements for public use. Thus, only the City has the right to enter these easements to maintain utilities. If the park master plan suggests that these easements be explored for public access, then the City would work with the landowners to determine the feasibility and arrangements for public access.

D. There were several questions from the audience during this time as well:

- a. Question #1: When do we get to the nuts and bolts of what it is going to look like?
 - i. Graham noted that the park master plan process will last throughout 2015. (The process is currently in a Discovery phase.)
- b. Question #2: Please clarify greenway easement and map orientation.
 - i. Graham reviewed a map via a Powerpoint exhibit and referenced the City of Raleigh Greenway Plan.

E. There were several CPC member questions during this time as well:

- a. Neighborhood signs: Desire to enlarge font and reduce text. Possibly a banner at the site to increase awareness and visibility.
 - i. Matthew responded that he is working on improving the sign and possibly placing a larger sign at the site.
- b. Are there regulations or requirements for usage of greenway easement on The Timbers (apartment complex to the northwest)?
 - i. Todd responded that that a greenway easement does not have to be used for a greenway trail; it can serve the environmental function of the Greenway and/or could be maintained simply as a vegetated stream buffer.
- c. Where does the proposed greenway corridor (route on Greenway Master Plan) end – on southern end of park?
 - i. The proposed greenway corridor runs south, along Hare Snipe Creek, essentially to the existing Crabtree Greenway. Todd and Graham noted that it continues from the southern end of the park, along Michael Durham’s property and, next, on two parcels still controlled by the Wooten family.

2. DRAFT CHARTER DISCUSSION

A. Public question during this time:

- a. How did the CPC get formed? What is its composition?
 - i. Kara explained the process behind the appointment of citizens by the Raleigh City Council, referencing the Situational Assessment which studied local interests and demographics for representation.

B. DHM (Kara) sought review and approval of Draft Charter. Consensus gained – all members voted 1.

3. HOMEWORK EXERCISE

- A. All CPC members spent two minutes introducing themselves and explaining their research and/or site visits – what they found and experienced.
- a. Jennifer Hoverstad: Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board Member. Really excited. Wants to make this a family park/space. Not to connect the entire city but wants something smaller, for the neighborhood. Her main focus now is on the floodplain issue. Does not want to see a lot of maintenance money wasted due to flooding repairs.
 - b. Caroline Landen: Used the sewer easement alongside her property to enter park. Was hard to get into the site due to vegetation. Also, took her dog which had a blast there. Property is very steep besides the easement. Later, she and her mom – who previously lived adjacent to the park – visited. When they pulled into parking lot, they commented on it being “sad.” Mom’s comment, “It’s sad because no one is able to build forts.”
 - c. Stephanie Avett: Has two kids and background in Environmental Education. Accessed park by way of the parking lot. Enjoys the look of the park because it resembles a meadow (Wooten Meadow). Lots of nice trees but concerned by the “sea of invasive species”. Along the creek is nice but is worried about soil erosion and people making it worse when they go down to the creek. Heard a ton of birds in meadow but not much in the woods.
 - d. Michael Durham: New to the neighborhood. Walked the park several times. Park is really nice in the winter but really uncomfortable in the summer (poison ivy, mosquitoes). Lots of tadpoles in the creek in the spring. Mosquitoes are not so bad in all locations, maybe because of dragonflies.
 - e. Carol Clagett: Lives on the park, with two dogs. Seen lots of wildlife, esp. snakes. Lots of owls, fox, birds, deer. Has a mosquito problem and is aware of the extensive invasive species (English and poison ivy.)
 - f. Steve Sheriff: Walked park lots of times. Very soggy. Noted difference between the seasons. Summer time has lots of vegetation which grows fast and is a maintenance concern. Interviewed his neighbors; focus emerged on creek issues. They are all concerned about the erosion around the creek and how fast the creek runs when it rains.
 - g. Cathy Sprankle: Lives adjacent to the mill dam remnants. Visited park over two weekends; walked the perimeter each time. Much of the land is floodplain; need to recognize and work with this into the future; there will be uses that are not appropriate. Also very concerned with bank failure along western side of the bank and the houses along Queen Dr. Really enjoyed walking around the perimeter, especially along the east side. Very nice views of the park along the higher elevations there.
 - h. Carolyn Solomon: Most recently toured three weekends ago. Saw bank failure. Saw a lot of pink tags on trees but learned that they were only for survey purposes. Some magnolias represent special plants on site. Found it lovely to walk along the creek. Appreciates how secluded and quiet it is in the park.
 - i. Maggie Barlow: Lives on Winthrop Drive; her family has 3 boys; very involved in York Elementary. Would love to see a relationship with the school. Her boys love playing in the creek but they need to be told where they can and cannot go – due to safety issues as noted by others. Agreed with Cathy and Carolyn on needing rain boots, due to very wet conditions. Couldn’t find the second brick wall, but found the first one, by the dam. Would like walkable access to the park and its features; kids would really enjoy it.
 - j. Eric Childs: Lives on Hermitage Drive; one of the members with an existing sewer easement on his property, leading right into what calls “the floodplain.” Took a survey of immediate neighbors and they were concerned about future access to the park. They don’t want people walking through their backyards. Security concerns over any new path to and from their backyards. Easement has depressions/holes from the City’s mowing equipment - currently has standing water and mosquitoes. Need landscaping along Millbrook, especially stuff that will take high water.

- k. Joanna Smothers: Lives on Chelsea Place just off Winthrop Drive. Has 20-year old-aged children that played in the creek when younger. Took daughter to the creek recently and asked her opinion. Showed her the dam which excited her; daughter had not realized that something historical was there. Also went there with her husband. Was wet, but not too wet. His comment was that it was “the nicest walk he has ever taken in Raleigh”. It was quiet. Cut through the park, behind the pine area. Saw the blackberry bushes as part of a nice residential buffer there.
 - l. Kevin Kirton: Fire Lieutenant with the City of Raleigh; owns three properties in the area. Would like to see a combination of Williams Park and Walnut Wetland Center features. Needs a gathering place; suggest a Pavilion style structure like at Williams Park. Should utilize existing parking area, provide a playground for kids and a walking trail for exercise; use a boardwalk to keep people out of the wetlands.
 - m. Ryan Moore: Has 4 children, interested in having a place for them to play. Took his son to the park for a child’s perspective. His son had a lot of fun. Son has Interest in the beavers being there and their protection. Enjoyed the different elements on site now. For kids, the pine tree stand is like an enchanted forest. His takeaway was to keep the environmental aspects but provide more opportunity for people to partake in it (i.e. trails). Enjoys having the park nearby so he can take his kids there.
 - n. Alison Wilkinson: Her home has an overview onto the park. Went back into the park and saw the beautiful hardwoods. Park is very wet, peaceful; has lots of fallen trees. Sees lots of deer. Loblolly Pine stand needs to be thinned but is neat. Front section of the park – wet, overgrown, not welcoming, and, yes, “sad.”
 - o. Carole Sawicki: Loves the open space in the park. Recalls the park as a pasture with fond memories of the horses there and her family’s soccer use. Park is serene once as you go further back into it. Neighbors shared that soccer use was loud during games and including disturbances like tailgating before and after games. Neighbors want to maintain the serenity of the site. Some playground pieces but not too much to elicit loud noise.
 - p. Julie White: Noted the steepness on eastern edge of property and the overgrowth there.
- B. In summary, Graham noted that some of these comments were experience-based (what happened when visiting the site) while others were the beginnings of value decisions (what should/could happen at the park). This will be important to note the differences as the park design moves forward.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Comments were made by general public as noted below:
- a. Comment was made in favor of evaluating the need for a dog park for a small area of the park. Particular attention should be given for the adjacent apartments and townhomes north of site (across Millbrook) that may lack the open space for dogs.
 - b. Floodplain is a problem; should limit paving. One idea is to have a community garden. A community garden could bring people together. Once again – adjacent apartments and townhomes to the north of site could be benefit from the use of this space for a community garden. 2 additional members of the public specifically came to support the community garden idea and shared a petition effort underway.
 - c. Erosion is rather significant along Hare Snipe Creek. Concern over children going through backyards and playing where the land is steep and there is already erosion. Believes there should be multiple things for multiple people. Velocity of water-flow in creek is dangerous now, even during even minor storm events.
 - e. Fear of snakes. Has a home now shown in a floodplain though this wasn’t the case in 1987; due to remapping by FEMA as well as upstream development. It would be nice to have handicap access to the park and associated services. Would like to see Greenway walkability.
 - f. Interest in keeping the tranquility of the back area for meditation.

- g. Small kids play area in the front part/pavilion is great idea. Agree with greenway ideas and greenway easements on the park.
 - h. Tennyson Place HOA Board of Directors representative; knows many of the issues as they experience them at their townhomes north of the park. Flooding is a major problem. Investigated possible creek blockages over the years. Park has looked sad in recent years. A lot of dog owners and would love a dog park area in the park. Likes the community garden area idea. Concerned about safety at the corner of Millbrook and Leesville Roads, with cars using park as an alternative turn-around due to speeds and visibility. Reports a lot of accidents at the intersection over the past 20 years.
- B. Comments were made by CPC as noted below:
- a. Comment was made to request more information on floodplain and drainage issues. Please provide more clarity on who is in charge of 'fixing' the stream bank? City? US Army Corps of Engineers? State? (Matthew Keough asked to hold this question and invite the correct expertise to address it in the future.)
 - b. Comment made in favor of permanent park structures in the right places. And if structures are built; restrooms should be provided. Encourages discussion on how structures/play areas might have impact immediately adjacent private property.
 - c. Comment made about how it is easy to see into adjacent neighbor's yards in the winter time. Privacy concerns should be discussed.
 - d. Interest expressed regarding the relationship between surrounding development and the water flows to the creek, to include overflows within stormwater drains/easements and undersized culverts that lead to the park.

5. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- A. Group Exercise to define the key questions and possible responses about the park's development. Ultimately, these questions will be compiled into a 1-2 page updatable FAQ resources that will be sent to CPC and communicated to the public throughout the process.
- a. Group #1 proposed questions:
 - i. How was the CPC formed and selected? Who is on the CPC?
 - ii. How will neighboring/adjacent properties be affected by park development?
 - ii. How will northern neighborhoods access the park safely across Millbrook?
 - iii. Will there be any alternative access points (besides Millbrook) into the park – particularly within the southern end where personal safety may be a concern during a walk/visit?
 - a. Group #2 proposed questions:
 - i. How long will the park master plan and park construction process take?
 - ii. Will there be access from Winthrop Dr.? How?
 - iii. Is the Wooten family willing to sell other properties for possible better access from southern end?
 - iv. Will there be any mitigation for the possible noises made at the park?
 - v. What nighttime activities will occur?
 - vi. What are park operating hours?
 - vii. What does a greenway connection look like through the park?
 - b. Group #3 proposed questions:
 - i. Where will park access be besides at Millbrook/Leesville drive?
 - ii. How will private property boundaries be treated?
 - iii. What happens if a park visitor wanders onto private property? How is liability handled? What about damage to personal property?
 - iv. What security measures will take place during park construction?
 - v. How much money is designated for park construction?
 - vi. Could the mill pond be restored?
 - c. Group #4 proposed questions:

- i. What is the timeline for the park master plan and park construction?
- ii. Will there be phased implementation for park construction? If so – what is it?
- iii. What is the park construction costs?
- iv. How can I provide input?

C. Project Team (city staff and consultants) to provide answers to these questions soon.

6. SITE ANALYSIS

A. Graham noted the following items of interest:

- a. Density around the park is not very intense – from census data – except to the north/northeast where many multi-family units are.
- b. Identified three layers of creek degradation (Low, Medium, and High). Graham noted that not all streambank deterioration occurs on park property or within boundaries.
- c. Graham described possible regulated water bodies.
 - i. Defined streams have a 50' wide buffer from top of banks on each side of stream, per State's Neuse River Buffer rules. Can only disturb buffers with permits from State. Can cross buffers with bridges with permitting and mitigation. Can also build trails within parts of the 50' buffer with limited permitting and mitigation.
 - ii. If a defined wetland - wetlands will not have buffers but are themselves protected from disturbance by US Army Corps of Engineers. Can impact up to 1/10th acre with limited permitting. Up to ½ acre of disturbance can occur with permitting and mitigation.
 - iii. If a defined **floodplain** (much of site is within this 100-year floodplain) – then construction can occur within this area – with permitting and a Letter of Map Revision process with FEMA. Currently Raleigh allows for limited development within floodplains. While not encouraged, some development could occur (pathways, walks, park features.) No habitable structures should be built within the floodplain; some technical ways around it by elevating structure, but not encouraged.
 - iv. If a defined **floodway** (area very close to streams/creeks most likely to flood very often), then no new earth work can occur. Often noted as an area where 'no net fill' can occur; this means that nothing can occur that would raise the level of the floodway elevation without an equal reduction of grade within the floodway. No structures/obstructions allowed – as they will cause a rise in floodway as well. Very restrictive; bridges are often built over this elevation and out of these floodway areas.
- d. Graham discussed that successional landscape of the site – from meadow to scrub meadow to pine forest to mixed forest to mature hardwood forest (and wetlands).
- e. Graham began to discuss opportunities within the site – Pine Forest, Forest Canopy, Upland area, Stream Access areas, Parking Area, Vehicular Access.

D. Questions and comments from the CPC:

- a. How can park maintain successional patterns?
- b. What happens to storm water during a storm event and in what manner does the site itself flood?
- c. What are some examples of parks that have been built successfully along floodplains, wetlands, streams?
- d. What are some examples of parks that are built with multiple adjacent neighbors? Shelley Lake?

DHM DESIGN

- e. Discussion on the history of the site as a disturbed area. Acknowledgement that man-made conditions have formed the site, with construction of the dam centuries ago. Even though it has feeling of natural site now, there are many remnants of man's impact on the site.
- f. Recollections about the challenges of previous park planning efforts for this site.
- g. Recollections about the previous attempt to construct multi-family on the site which was unsuccessful due to floodplain restrictions.

7. HOMEWORK

- A. Homework Assignment
 - a. CPC members were asked to think about possible park program elements, park values, and an overall vision statement for the park.
 - b. CPC members were asked to begin thinking about the possible user groups of the park – who can you envision using the park?

8. NEXT STEPS

- A. The Project Team will send the CPC an updated Charter and meeting summary within two weeks.
- B. The Project Team will send the CPC potential meeting dates for CPC #3 soon (early/mid-March).
- C. The next meeting date will be confirmed when the previous meeting summary is sent out.
- D. The first public workshop/open house will also be confirmed when the previous meeting summary is sent out.
- E. The City to distribute updated yard signs, if requested.

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: March 18, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Lake Lynn Community Center

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design)
Becky Ward (Ward Consulting Engineers)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough (PRCR); Hannah Shields (PRCR); Kevin Boyer (Public Works - Stormwater); Sheila Thomas-Ambat (Stormwater)

CPC Members: Stephanie Avett, Carol Claggett, Eric Childs, Michael Durham, Kevin Kirton, Caroline Landon, Carole Sawicki, Ralph Sherwin, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprankle, Alison Wilkinson, Laurie Williams

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (persons not in attendance at meeting):

Consultant Team: Stephen Ellsperman (DHM Design)

CPC Members: Rodger Koopman, Jennifer Hoverstad, Hobert Orton, Maggie Barlow, Ryan Moore, Julie White, Steve Sheriff

1. WELCOME AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Matthew Keough provided a welcome and introduced city staff, including Hannah Shields representing Historic Resources on the project team
- B. DHM reviewed meeting agenda, meeting goals, meeting format, project team present, and asked for questions/comments related to the CPC Meeting #2 Summary
 - a. Consensus voting (all members voted with 1's accepting meeting summary)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Twenty minutes were set aside and were used for public comment.
 - a. General Public Comment
 - i. Four community members spoke in support of a community garden to be located within Wooten Meadow Park
 - 1. Noted adjacent apartments and nearby townhomes as possible users
 - 2. Noted their outreach efforts, including an on-line petition underway
 - ii. Seven community members spoke in support of a pickleball facility to be located within Wooten Meadow Park
 - 1. Noted growing popularity and fitness aspects
 - 2. Noted their online input, particularly on the City's MindMixer website
 - iii. One community member spoke in support of a dog park component to be located within Wooten Meadow Park
 - 1. Noted adjacent apartments and nearby townhomes as possible users
 - iv. One community member spoke in support of a restroom facility to be located within Wooten Meadow Park
 - 1. Noted isolation of park site to other facilities
 - b. CPC Member Public Comment
 - i. Suggested precedent projects:

1. Wade Park in Wilmington, NC: constructed wetlands within a park setting, diverts stormwater outfalls into holding ponds with raised wooden walkways providing access across the site
 2. The Bog Garden in Greensboro
 3. Local greenways
 4. NC Museum of Art detention/storm pond area
 5. Walnut Creek Wetland Center and trails
- ii. Neighborhood/Neighbors feedback:
1. Desire for playground accessibility to children with disabilities
 2. Concern regarding Stormwater running through property; wanting accessibility for all people
 3. Need to know about Floodplain restrictions in code/ordinance regarding structures before moving on
 4. Community garden will be a challenge due to wildlife; need to think about its practicality, especially with management concerns
- iii. Questions:
1. Would walkways have to be raised?
 - a. DHM responded by saying it is a floodplain consideration, and not a requirement across the entire site. It was noted that raised walkways allow for water to pass without obstruction (no-rise impact) and can create a special experience for the park user, rather than asphalt or concrete that is flush with the grade. Raised walks are recommended in really wet areas.
 2. Is it an option to bring in fill to change the topography within floodplain?
 - a. DHM noted that it is an option but there are limitations in the floodplain. City is currently contemplating a change in this policy to not allow any filling within floodplain.
- c. Mindmixer, City Website
- i. MindMixer respondents mostly supported Pickleball, Greenway, and passive park elements for Wooten Meadow Park. Dog park and community garden interest were again identified in this second round of questions related to the park vision.

3. FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- a. DHM gave general overview of floodplain and site analysis features map
- b. DHM, Becky Ward, and City staff provided detailed overviews of the following subject areas:
 - i. Watershed/Drainage Basins:
 - Becky Ward presented a review of the Watershed for Wooten Meadow – Upper and Lower areas of the larger drainage basin
 - 97% of storm water coming to site comes from north of Millbrook Road, within Hare Snipe Creek (which falls under the jurisdiction of the state)
 - 1% of storm water coming to site comes from private land on the west of the site
 - 2% of storm water comes to site comes from east of site within intermittent easements/pipes
 - Given these parameters, there is limited chance to treat/detain the off-site water intrusion at the park.

- CPC Question: Where does water go after Wooten Meadow Park?
 - a. Stormwater flows downstream towards the Crabtree mall area and ultimately into Crabtree Creek
- ii. Streambank Stabilization
 - There are limited streambank concerns on the park side of Hare Snipe Creek
 - a. Best area to repair would be around large oxbow in creek
 - b. Sanitary sewer line, running parallel to creek , has been stabilized/armored with rip/rap over the years.
 - Two typical types of stability concerns:
 - a. Vertical Bed stability
 - b. Lateral Bank stability
 - Repairs of this nature most often occur by way of installing small layers of soil wrapped with burlap called soil lifts – and supplanted with vegetation and fabric
- iii. Floodplain Development
 - Approximately 70% of site lies within 100-year floodplain
 - Explanation of 100 year floodplain, 500 year floodplain, floodway, and “flood fringe”
 - Project may engage local and federal authorities for review of development within floodplain
 - a. Must go through FEMA approval if development does not qualify for “no-rise;” If “no-rise” conditions are determined, the review stays with local jurisdiction
 - b. FEMA process (CLOMR/LOMR) is a lengthy process for permit – approx. 1 year from design submittal to start of construction
 - Several opportunities to engage or work within the floodplain were presented:
 - a. Engage: connect the user to landscape via signage, boardwalks
 - b. Educate: simply inform the user about the landscape via educational processes including signage and curriculum – Walnut Creek Wetland Center shown as a good local precedent
 - c. Manage: manage the landscape conditions of a floodplain meadow, a floodplain forest, and successional growth. Precedents of these conditions were shown, i.e. the use of the trails as an edge of a managed landscape
- iv. Stormwater
 - Regulatory constraints were discussed:
 - a. Neuse River Basin requirements, including 50’ stream buffers from top of Hare Snipe Creek bank as part of an associated regulated stream/waterway, noting nitrogen-loading concerns
 - b. Existing site conditions show about 4% of site is covered in impervious surface. It was noted that the project development could allow up to 24% of impervious coverage and not be required to treat park-generated stormwater
 - c. Stormwater regulations largely come from the State but are handled by the both the City and State
 - d. Stormwater measures – while possibly not required for this project (if impervious surface quantities remain low) - may still be beneficial to the park, users, and overall watershed
 - Stormwater Opportunities were discussed:
 - a. On site rain gardens, holding stormwater

- b. Daylighting of existing piped systems
- c. Education on stormwater process for public awareness
- d. Kevin Boyer – COR Stormwater Division presented several precedent example sites of constructed wetlands – one of the stormwater treatment/detention options listed within NC Stormwater Manual for Best Management Practices.
 - i. Fred Fletcher Park, Raleigh
 - Stormwater device with trails, overlooks, sculptures
 - ii. NC Museum of Art, Raleigh
 - Much higher maintenance with a more managed aesthetic
 - iii. Wade Park, Wilmington
 - Constructed wetland – 12 acres of wetlands within a 17 acre park setting. Park has educational signage with walking trails explaining the different-sized pools and water channels
 - iv. North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro
 - Education deck/overlook area from the main North America area entry. Has a dual purpose of water detention and water quality.
 - v. Conover Station, Conover
- Questions were raised by CPC
 - a. Question: Do the precedent examples have issues with mosquitoes?
 - i. Mr. Boyer responded that it's all about design and management – a well-constructed wetland would not have a mosquito problem because it provides habitat for predators of mosquitos.
 - b. Question: Would treating the site voluntarily improve the chances for grant funding?
 - i. DHM and City responded that a multi-function strategy appears to work well with grant opportunities but also noted the State's Clean Water Management Trust Fund no longer funds stormwater management projects, as it did in these examples
 - c. Question: What are the options for slowing or preventing the flooding of the area?
 - i. DHM, Ward, and City noted that the site is a floodplain and is expected to flood periodically. The fact that 97% of storm water flowing to the site is from north and within Hare Snipe Creek suggest that slowing down or preventing of flood waters would have to be done upstream.
- v. Archaeological Findings
 - DHM noted that a draft archaeological report was completed and was being reviewed by City and Consultant staff
 - a. Field work, archival research at State Historic Preservation Office, and desktop research have been completed, verifying the findings to date
 - b. The dam wall and associated stone channel on site have been determined as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

- Precedent examples of how project may choose to highlight the cultural resources were presented:
 - a. Fully interpreted site, similar to Yates Mill Historic Park where the primary destination and focus is on the cultural resource
 - b. Focus on accessibility of the cultural amenities, with a brief story of the remnant structures as shown at Lassiter Mill
- vi. Tree Canopy and Vegetation
 - DHM reviewed tree canopy diagram and showed grouping of tree species onsite
 - DHM presented site sections that show the various topography and landscape conditions through the site, including the role of the sewer easements
 - DHM presented several opportunities to take advantage of the existing vegetation:
 - a. Managed Loblolly Pine forest
 - b. Successional forest education
 - c. Natural play areas
- c. At the close of this Findings and Opportunities presentation, DHM asked for CPC members to consider which of the opportunity/constraints subjects were most intriguing and influential for planning purposes. It was acknowledged that the topics could be interpreted in different ways, including non-exclusivity and overlap between areas, making for incomplete voting:
 - i. Cultural Resources: 1 vote
 - ii. Tree Canopy/Existing Vegetation: 7 votes
 - iii. Floodplain Development and Stormwater Areas: 12 votes
 - iv. Streambank Stabilization: 1 vote

4. PARK VALUES, VISION, AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- a. Park Values and Vision worksheet was handed out – listing CPC’s previous key words related to Wooten Meadow Park’s development
- b. Small groups discussed park program elements that would align with those values/vision
- c. Two reports were shared:
 - i. Group#1 – Overall thematic vision was Nature – with desired programmatic elements as noted below:
 - Walkways
 - Educational Signs
 - Nature Playspace (aligned with vision words Nature, Many Ages, Usable Spaces)
 - Observation Areas
 - Minimal Hardscape Areas
 - ii. Group#2 – Overall thematic vision was Quiet and Passive – with desired programmatic elements as noted below:
 - Trails/Walkways
 - Boardwalk
 - Educational Signage
 - Cultural Resources
 - Natural Play
- d. At the end of the meeting, CPC members were asked to turn in the Values/Vision Sheets with five key values or vision elements circled as their priority for Wooten Meadow Park.
 - i. Talley of Prioritized Values (# of votes each)

- Nature (14)
- Preservation (8)
- Education/Educational signage (7)
- Passive Activities (6)
- Aesthetically Pleasing (5)
- Quiet (3)
- Safety (3)
- Open Space, Enhanced Cultural Resources, Serve Many Ages, Neighborhood-based, Enhanced Historical Resources, Unique, Accessible, Community Engagement (2 each)

5. PUBLIC MEETING #1

- a. DHM provided an overview of upcoming public meeting:
 - i. 10am-1pm on Saturday April 11
 - ii. On-site at Wooten Meadow Park, 2801 West Millbrook Road
 - iii. Tent, table, chairs provided by City
 - iv. Activities for kids, Tours of Site, Boards/Stations outlining process of project thus far
 - v. Feedback mechanisms will be provided to public to see if public aligns with CPC's efforts thus far
 - vi. Meeting materials will include:
 - Frequently Asked Questions for CPC use
 - Prioritized Values List (from CPC Meeting #3)
 - Boards explaining process
 - Comment Forms
 - Sign-in Sheets
- b. DHM and City noted outreach efforts:
 - i. Notification package for distribution
 - ii. Flyer availability – email and hard copies made available to the CPC
 - iii. Neighborhood signs available for CPC members
 - iv. Signs will be placed on-site before and during event
 - v. Postcards mailed to adjacent 1,000 residents
 - vi. Recommendation to contact newspaper given local population reliance on printed media
 - City will do so – will look into article and/or a public notice
 - vii. Question raised about contacting York Elem and/or neighborhood newsletters
 - Will ask a CPC member to do
- c. DHM circulated list for CPC members to volunteer for timeslots for event
- d. DHM and City asked for additional feedback on making sure event is successful
 - i. Specific DHM question of CPC: What feedback would you like to receive via the comment form for the public? Answers:
 - Open-ended questions,
 - Simple (one-page) interactions,
 - Frequency of use now? Future use?
 - What they would do in this park?
 - What are safety concerns?
 - ii. Specific DHM question of CPC: What would you like the public to know about the project/process? Answers:
 - Educate the public on what you can do within this park,

DHM DESIGN

- Natural resource opportunities and constraints - show on big boards,
 - Schedule and Cost for development
- iii. CPC Comment: Make sure the public understands existing resources as opportunities at the park and then see what we can do with resources
 - iv. CPC Comment: Make sure the public understands that the City is committed to keeping this a park (as opposed to apartments, houses, etc.)

6. NEXT STEPS/HOMEWORK

- a. Assist City and DHM advocate for Public Meeting #1

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE/TIME/ May 13, 2015

LOCATION: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Lake Lynn Community Center

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design); Jose Rodriguez (DHM Design); Stephen Ellsperman (DHM Design); Becky Ward (Ward Consulting Engineers)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough (PRCR); Shawsheen Baker (PRCR); James Marapoti (PRCR); Stephen Bentley (PRCR)

CPC Members: Jennifer Hoverstad, Hobert Orton, Maggie Barlow, Ryan Moore, Julie White, Steve Sherif, Stephanie Avett, Eric Childs, Kevin Kirton, Carole Sawicki, Ralph Sherwin, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprankle, Allison Wilkinson

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (persons not in attendance at meeting):

CPC Members: Michael Durham, Rodger Koopman, Carol Claggett, Caroline Landon, Laurie Williams

1. WELCOME AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Matthew Keough provided a welcome and introduced city staff in attendance
- B. DHM reviewed meeting agenda, meeting goals, meeting format, and the project team present

2. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF CPC MEETING #3 SUMMARY

- A. DHM reviewed the meeting summary from CPC Meeting #3 and asked for questions/comments related to it
 - a. Consensus voting (all members voted with 1's accepting meeting summary)

3. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY FROM PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1

- A. DHM reviewed the meeting summary from Public Open House #1
 - a. Overall attendees
 - b. Neighborhoods represented
 - c. Prioritization of Values
 - d. Top ranking program elements
 - e. Top ranking aesthetic photo

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. General Public Comment
 - a. 2 community members had comments were as follows:
 - i. Like process so far. In addition to possibly considering community garden, perhaps a small farmers market could be considered as well. Concept may engage more neighborhoods to connect.
 - ii. Like process so far. Park is larger than expected.
 - b. 2 community members had questions were as follows:
 - i. What type of diversity was represented at Public Open House – racially, geographically, age?
 - 17 neighborhoods represented, persons of all races attended, and appeared to be a mix of ages and households
 - ii. Were there a lot of questions?
 - Lots about stormwater, upstream flood or stream impacts, and access across Millbrook.
- B. CPC Member Public Comments
 - a. Concern about park boundaries and making sure they are clear in the future
 - b. Pleased to see the information about park and open house disseminated to the public at large – helps to show the potential of the site in many ways

5. DESIGN CHARRETTE EXERCISE

- A. DHM gave general overview of charrette 'rules' and expectations
- B. DHM explained the 'toolkit' and maps at their tables
- C. Each group was comprised of 3-4 people and sat around one table to work collaboratively.
- D. Each table had a facilitator of DHM staff to engage the conversation, to ask questions and to lend support
- E. Matthew, Becky, Shawsheen, James, and Stephen E. floated between tables answering questions
- F. The charrette goal was for each group to create a park concept using the following core design elements (along with any other park elements they felt appropriate given public feedback at this point):
 - A. 12 Car Parking Lot with Room for Fire Truck Turn Around
 - B. Vehicular Access at Millbrook/Leesville Light Remaining
 - C. Preserve Hare Snipe Creek in Current Location
 - D. Preserve Sanitary Sewer in Current Location Paralleling Hare Snipe Creek
 - E. Restroom Building (Located Out of 100-year Floodplain)
 - F. Paved Greenway Connection from North to South of Site (can terminate at southern end – does not have to leave site)
 - G. Pedestrian Circulation System
- G. Teams worked for approximately one hour on their park concepts

6. DESIGN CHARRETTE PRESENTATIONS

- A. Group 1 (Maggie, Carole, Hobert, Kate (Hobert's wife) + Jeremy facilitating)
 - a. Concept described as: Open Space for open play; Relaxing; Passive; Educational signage at key interest points; Large pedestrian loop around perimeter with smaller secondary trails dissecting the space; shelters along path with key views towards the interior of the park and towards the creek
 - b. Questions raised by CPC: How do you provide adequate access for emergency vehicles in 'far' end of park.
 - c. Image of concept:



- B. Group 2 (Kevin, Ryan, Eric, Allison + Graham facilitating)

DHM DESIGN

- a. Concept described as: Ensure greenway happens – but separate from main park paths – place greenway along sewer easement; Relaxing nature walk; Meandering paths throughout as secondary routes that connect key spots; Open play area near front; Use vegetation to break up larger program areas; Open Space for open play; Looped path at end to allow turnarounds; two restrooms-one at front and one near loop; Playground near front; Natural play area in woods
- b. Comments raised by CPC: Like meandering path to key spots but still keeps the ‘meadow’ feel
- c. Image of concept:



C. Group 3 (Stephanie, Julie, Steve, Cathy + Kara facilitating)

- a. Concept described as: Tighten up parking to be smaller than existing and closer to light at Millbrook; add lots of program elements – including small dog park, community garden, restrooms, shelter, wetland education area, and a multi-use field – mostly near parking area and existing ‘cleared space’; lots of pedestrian paths off of the main greenway (which follows creek); many interior views of area – both near parking area; Open Space for open play; Relaxing; Passive; Educational signage at key interest points; Large pedestrian loop around perimeter with smaller secondary trails dissecting the space; shelters along path with key views towards the interior of the park and towards the creek
- b. Image of concept:

DHM DESIGN

7. NEXT STEPS/HOMEWORK

- A. Refine concepts that were created tonight
- B. Distill them down into two or three concepts
- C. Distribute refined concepts via email to CPC for feedback/review
- D. Present concepts to the public (at Public Open House #2)
- E. Review public feedback with CPC (immediately following Public Open House #2)

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE & TIME: June 22, 2015 @ 8:00pm – 8:30 pm (Public Workshop 6:00pm – 8:00pm)

MEETING LOCATION: York Elementary

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design); Sheema Laguerre (DHM Design)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough (PRCR); Shawsheen Baker (PRCR); Diane Sauer (PRCR)

CPC Members: Maggie Barlow, Steve Sheriff, Eric Childs, Ralph Sherwin, Michael Durham, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprinkle, Allison Wilkinson, Stephanie Avett

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (CPC persons not in attendance at meeting):

CPC Members: Jennifer Hoverstad, Hobert Orton, Ryan Moore, Julie White, Kevin Kirton, Carole Sawicki, Rodger Koopman, Carol Claggett, Caroline Landon, Laurie Williams

1. PUBLIC WORKSHOP (6:00pm-8:00pm)

A. WELCOME

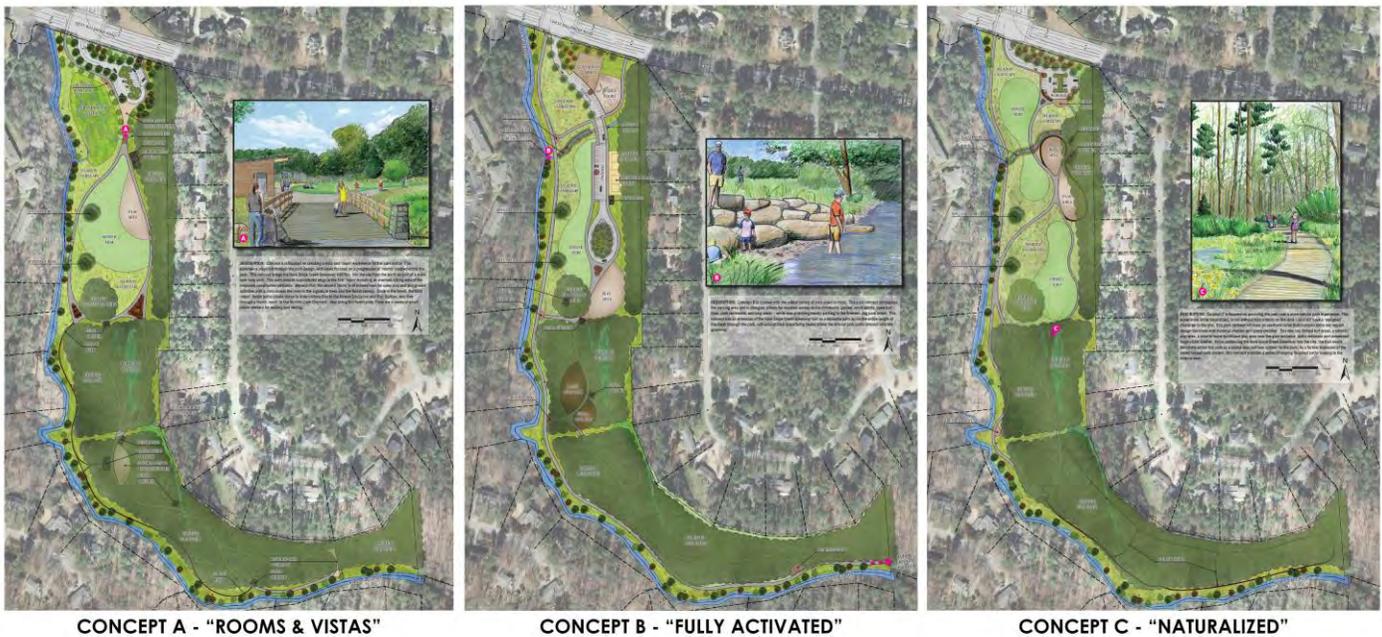
- a) Matthew Keough provided a welcome and introduced city staff in attendance
- b) DHM reviewed meeting agenda, meeting goals, meeting format, and the project team present
- c) DHM discussed project timeline and where this meeting fits in

B. PRESENTATION OF THREE PARK CONCEPTS

- a) DHM presented the three park concepts:
 - a. Concept A – “Rooms with Views”
 - i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept A is focused on creating a vista and ‘room’ experience for the park visitor. This experience plays out through the park design, with views focused on a progression of ‘rooms’ created within the park. The concept brings the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway trail fully into the site from the north as part of a main park loop path. This path creates a sculptured edge to the first ‘room’ including an overlook sitting area of the proposed constructed wetlands. Beyond that, the second ‘room’ is of mowed lawn for open play and playground activities with a vista across the lawn to the signature trees and the forest canopy. Once in the forest, the third ‘room’ is comprised of forest paths that provide vistas to draw visitors first to the Nature Education and Play Station, and then through a fourth ‘room’ of the Historic Dam Overlook. Also along this forest path, there are a series of small picnic shelters for seating and resting.”
 - b. Concept B – “Fully Activated”
 - i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept B is created with the widest variety of park users in mind. This park concept reimagines the parking area and in doing so, allows for required access to the community garden, court sports, open turf lawn, park restrooms, and play areas – while also providing nearby parking to the forested dog park areas. This concept has an extension of the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway trail as a separate path to run the entire length of the creek through the park, with educational opportunity nodes where the interior park paths interact with the greenway.”

c. Concept C – “Naturalized”

- i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept C is focused on providing the park user a more natural park experience. This experience, while naturalized, is not without man’s touch on the land – as it will have a ‘designed’ character to the site. This park concept will have an aesthetic value that contains more low-impact design decisions with material choices and space creation. This one has limited turf areas, a natural play area, a smaller more traditional play area near the park entrance, and a restroom and connected large picnic shelter. While continuing the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway into the site, the trail would terminate within this park as a paved loop pathway system for the park. As a further extension of the paved looped path system, this concept provides a series of looping mulched paths leading to the historic dam.



C. PUBLIC FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS (LARGE GROUP)

- The audience asked approximately a dozen questions – mostly related to greenway alignment, greenway access, neighborhood connections, construction costs and phasing, dog park arrangement, and the proposed constructed wetlands.
- After questions ended, DHM handed out a questionnaire/survey for the audience to review. It was suggested that this questionnaire/survey would be very useful as the audience split into small groups at ‘stations’ to review the individual concepts.
- DHM and Matthew spoke about the questionnaire/survey being posted soon online– for continued feedback from those community members that were not able to attend this public workshop.

D. PUBLIC FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS (SMALL GROUPS)

- DHM placed a facilitator at each of the three ‘stations’ to gather input, answer questions, and ensure dialogue kept flowing.
- DHM staff encouraged all attendees to fill out the survey either before the end of the meeting, or soon after the meeting. (NOTE: 44 ATTENDEES DID FILL OUT SURVEY THAT NIGHT)
- City staff circulated amongst all stations providing answers as needed.
- Questions and comments focused on the following items:
 - Explain more about the constructed wetland

- b. More information requested on what the naturalistic concept means
- c. Greenway connections (physical construction vs. easement/future build location) – what is the first phase?
- d. Archaeological or historical feature/focus?
- e. Definition of Forested Recreation
- f. Volleyball court needs
- g. Parking – size versus needs
- h. Safety in woods
- i. Dog park – noise, hours, lighting, access, odors, appropriateness for this park
- j. Parking/access from Hermitage strongly discouraged by several immediate residents
- k. Park phasing
- l. Concerns about park visitors wandering onto immediately adjacent private property – signage, fencing, City’s role, etc.
- m. Restrooms – locations, management, safety

2. FOLLOW UP CPC MEETING (8:00-8:30pm)

A. DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP

- a) DHM facilitated a question and answer session:
 - a. What did everyone hear the most?
 - i. Support of greenway access
 - ii. Trespassing concerns
 - iii. What type of park will it become? Neighborhood or destination? 1-2 mile radius
 - iv. Speaker in favor of keeping it small = neighborhood
 - v. Limit the number of parking spaces
 - vi. No access to or parking on Hermitage Road
 - vii. Flooding concerns and the use of mulch paths may be a maintenance concern – like idea, but may be an issue
 - viii. Generally OK with a small dog park
 - ix. Importance of educational signage
 - x. Heard lots of good feedback about Concept A & C
 - xi. Most of audience was concerned about too many activities in Concept B
 - xii. Private property and creek access concerns
 - xiii. Property line down the middle of the creek
 - xiv. Snake concerns
 - xv. In favor of “rooms”
 - xvi. Route along the stream (sewer easement) is a popular route today and design should have an established path in that location
 - xvii. In favor of a variety of shelters throughout
 - xviii. Open space/turf is good
 - xix. Education is important – possibility of residential scale items (e.g. rain garden) and signage
 - xx. Favored constructed wetland idea
 - xxi. Millbrook Exchange is a good example of a successful dog park
 - xxii. Noise concerns for large shelters vs small shelters
 - b. What were the most desired amenities they heard?
 - i. Highlight key elements/areas (cultural, natural, etc.)
 - ii. Trail system
 - iii. Open Space

DHM DESIGN

- iv. Quiet, natural
- v. Wetlands
- vi. Small shelters
- vii. Education
- viii. Resting locations
- ix. Natural education
- x. Toddler activity area
- xi. Historic areas/elements highlighted
- xii. Playground – but what about all natural activities for kids to do?
- xiii. Preservation of forest
- c. Straw Poll – What is your favorite concept?
 - i. A-12; B-1; C-12 (Members could vote for more than one)
- d. Straw Poll – If had to choose between Concept A, C, or a combination – what would you pick?
 - i. A-5; C-2; Combination-5

3. NEXT STEPS/HOMEWORK

- A. On-line survey posted
- B. DHM to refine concepts based on CPC and Public feedback
- C. Meet with CPC for Meeting #6 – review preferred park concept
- D. Host Public Workshop #3 – present preferred park concept

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE & TIME: August 31, 2015 @ 6:30pm-8:30pm

MEETING LOCATION: Large Room – Lake Lynn Community Center

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design);
City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough (PRCR); Shawsheen Baker (PRCR); Stephen Bentley (PRCR)
CPC Members: Carole Sawicki, Maggie Barlow, Steve Sheriff, Kevin Kirton, Ralph Sherwin, Michael Durham, Joanna Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprankle, Allison Wilkinson, Stephanie Avett, Jennifer Hoverstad, Ryan Moore, Caroline Landon, Laurie Williams

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (CPC persons not in attendance at meeting):

CPC Members: Rodger Koopman, Eric Childs, Hobert Orton, Julie White, Carol Claggett

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

A. Kara provided a welcome and introduced consultant team and city staff in attendance

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Kara reviewed meeting summary for CPC Meeting #4 (since meeting summary had not been reviewed during CPC #5 – as CPC #5 was held at same time as Public Workshop).

i. Consensus approval – All voted with 1’s

B. Kara reviewed meeting summary for CPC Meeting #5 and Public Workshop #2

i. Consensus approval – All voted with 1’s

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

i. Three citizens spoke (names are on record, elsewhere.)

- One citizen discussed concern for neighborhood access to the east that had been shown in Concept A for the Public Workshop #2. She was an immediately adjacent neighbor to a sanitary sewer easement and noted her concerns if that proposal continued.
- One citizen discussed concerns for neighborhood access out to Winthrop. Also concerns in general for noise, trash, and disrespectful park users. She said that these concerns came from numerous conversations with local residents.
- One citizen asked that the CPC and consultant team consider the inclusion of a community garden.

ii. CPC Comments from Public – CPC Members

- One CPC member had spoken with a couple neighbors and had several questions:
 - a. Question if restrooms are required within the park.
(Bathrooms are not required but often considered essential for the success of certain park elements. It is up to the committee to represent a consensus about what fits and does not fit in this master plan.)
 - b. Questions and concerns about maintenance of Brookhaven Nature Park and how that park’s maintenance plan related to what will happen at Wooten Meadow.
- One CPC member asked Matthew Keough about a class project he is doing that may relate to the Master Plan, as reported by another class participant.
(Matthew shared that he is attending the Natural Resource Leadership Program, run by NCState. The class requires a project, related to work and natural resource

management challenges. He has proposed to study forest management as it relates to recreational uses, tracking this process as an example.)

- One CPS member had surveyed several neighbors and had group concerns/comments to represent:
 - a. Desire to leave Wooten Meadow as natural as possible
 - b. Desire to limit large crowds, e.g.:
 - c. No dog park, no community garden
 - d. Does not see a need for restrooms, locals can return home
 - e. Security concerns
 - f. Maintenance concerns, especially for structures
 - g. Does not see a need for extensive play areas
 - h. Neighbors should have final say on plan because they are living next to it
 - i. Noise concerns: i.e. there are adjacent residents who have reverse work schedules (needing quiet during the day)

B. REVISITATION OF PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED CONCEPTS

- i. Graham presented the three concepts again with key bulleted highlights.
 - Concept A – “Rooms with Views”
 - Concept B – “Fully Activated”
 - Concept C – “Naturalized”

C. PRESENTATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

- i. DHM shared the latest project online survey
- ii. DHM noted that 44 surveys were filled out at Public Workshop #2
- iii. DHM noted that additional 66 surveys were filled out during the ‘open’ time on the City’s website for a total of 110 surveys.
 - Several questions arose from CPC members concerning the timing, statistical validity, and demographics of those who filled out the survey online.
- iv. DHM discussed the results of the open ended questions related directly to each of three park concepts:
 - Concept A – “Rooms with Views”
 - a. Respondents provided more positive comments than negative comments
 - b. Respondents liked the concept’s environmental aspects (constructed wetlands, dam overlook, natural elements, and meadow) as well as its ‘room’ concept.
 - c. Respondents had concerns about neighborhood access, safety, the possibility of mosquitos, and the distance between parking and park uses.
 - Concept B – “Fully Activated”
 - a. Comment B had the most overall comments
 - b. Respondents provided more positive comments than negative comments
 - c. Respondents liked the concept’s inclusion of the dog park and community garden, as well as sports courts.
 - d. Respondents had concerns and negative comments about the concept’s inclusion of a dog park, community garden with most concerns about noise and unwanted visitors.
 - Concept C – “Naturalized”
 - a. Concept C had the least overall comments
 - b. Respondents provided more positive comments than negative comments
 - c. Respondents liked the concept’s environmental aspects (passive areas, natural features, and meadow) as well as the inclusion of picnic shelters.
 - d. Respondents had concerns about the lack of a dog park, the amount of picnic shelters, and the limited play areas.

- v. DHM presented the responses to the individual 'program elements' questions on the survey.
 - 30 program elements were evaluated
 - 19 program elements gained positive (majority Yes) responses
 - Low Impact Forest Pathways was the highest rated positive response
 - All of highly rated elements closely align with highly rated values created by CPC early in process (and validated further by public at Public Workshop #1)
 - Still quite a few 'splits' on individual items – yet no affirmative “No’s”
 - There are conflict with exacting answers for individual program items
 - General sentiment at Public Workshop #2 was in favor of Concept A with some aspects of C (after 44 responses)
 - General sentiment after polling complete was that A and B are equally favored with some aspects of C (after 110 responses)
- D. PRESENTATION OF PREFERRED PARK CONCEPT
- a) DHM presented the preferred concept
 - b) DHM discussed all of the program elements and locations of these items
 - c) DHM began to discuss several small areas within the park for further feedback.
 - d) Several general questions/comments were brought forth by the CPC:
 - i) Question about the rendered trees on the east side of the park and their location
 - ii) Question about restroom location
 - iii) Access to park along Millbrook seemed acceptable as shown on plan – yet must make sure it is safe for pedestrians to cross Millbrook.
 - iv) Question about possibility of dog park fence acting as an obstruction with flood flows in floodplain
 - v) Concern about vehicular access onto main path – please consider a device that will ensure vehicles remain in parking lot area
 - vi) Question about dog park location
 - e) Dog Park became a central topic of discussion:
 - i) Distant location within the forest might still result in people letting their dog loose at the park entrance instead of in the fenced-in area
 - ii) Discussion over the majority “Yes” for Small Dog Park and “No” for Large Dog Park
 - iii) Questions about size of park areas shown 1/3 acre and 2/3 acre, totaling 1 acre
 - iv) Question arose “Does a dog park fit in to the values of the park?”
 - a. Concern over wildlife
 - b. Concerns over noise
 - c. Overall discussion seemed to indicate that most of CPC did not believe that a dog park fit well with the previously sorted park values.
 - v) DHM proposed a motion to edit the park preferred concept to remove the dog park:
 - 1. 13 – Yes remove it
 - 2. 2 – No, don’t remove (Non-consensus blocking vote)
 - f) Large shelter became a central topic of discussion
 - i) Concern over large shelter
 - a. Size - what is large? How many tables?
 - 1. Designed for 6-8 tables
 - b. Noise – crowds may gather here, i.e. play loud music
 - c. Location – while central to key park elements it is also close to existing homes
 - d. Concern that if large shelters is removed, where does the opportunity for a class of 20-30 children go?
 - ii) Questions posed to City about policies:
 - a. Security – lighting or not? Is it possible to not light?

(Yes – lighting is possible for security purposes but not to keep park open after dusk)

- b. Electrical – is it possible to not provide electricity to shelter (Yes- this can be considered)
- c. Maintenance – who will clean up after rentals/uses?
- d. How does City manage reservations vs. unwanted groups?

(User expectation. Medium/Large shelters are generally reserved through a community center (Lake Lynn) with a cleaning deposit. Unwanted groups require police notification.)

iii) DHM proposed a motion to edit the park preferred concept to remove the large picnic shelter:

- 1. 8 – Yes remove it
- 2. 6 – No, don't remove (Non-blocking vote)
- 3. 1 - Abstain

g) Small picnic shelters became a central topic of discussion

- a. Size - what is small? How many tables?
 - 1. Designed for 1-2 tables
- b. Can they be just seating areas – not for picnic tables?
- c. Can they just be shade structures?
- d. Can picnic tables be in places without shelters?
- e. Can benches be added throughout the park?

h) CPC was asked to stand up and review the paper plans for five minutes, then provide final wrap up comments on the plans:

i) If you could add or delete things on the preferred park concept, what would you do?

a. The following comments were received:

- 1. Eight members mentioned the idea of moving or creating a play area in the 'forest' where the dog park was previously shown
 - a. No concern about distance to parking
 - b. Existing shade is good
 - c. Natural play opportunities are enhanced
 - d. Explore natural play much more
- 2. Five members noted that park concept should add more small shelters now that large one is removed
 - a. Small shelters don't have to be for picnic only – can create seating for conversations, gathering, learning opportunities.
 - b. Suggest a small shelter near historic dam
- 3. Three members noted to keep the restroom somewhere in park
- 4. Three members noted their desire to see educational area
 - a. Gathering area for classes?
 - b. Shaded area for classes?
 - c. Use the Forest for education
 - d. Create a possible amphitheater?
 - e. Engage the wetlands and Hare Snipe Creek for learning activities
- 5. Two members commented positively on constructed wetlands and existing wetlands – also pleased with the boardwalks
- 6. Two members noted the need for more seating areas within the park

7. Two members noted their desire to ensure no vehicles can go within the park (except parking lot area)
 8. One member noted their desire to create a butterfly garden (possibly where turf is shown)
 9. One member noted to keep the open play turf area
- i) DHM and City presented several possible motions that the CPC could consider for the meeting – and the project’s next steps
- a. Option A (conduct an additional CPC mtg. to further refine preferred park concept prior to a public workshop)
 10. Yes - 15
 - b. Option B (have the consultant team edit park concept and move forward with public workshop)

Option A was chosen (15 yes) – with stipulation that CPC receive the next draft of plan in advance of next CPC meeting. All agreed good idea and able to accommodate

4. NEXT STEPS/HOMEWORK

- A. DHM to refine concept based on CPC and Public feedback
- B. CPC members to possibly visit other parks within region to evaluate shade structures, picnic areas, restroom structures, play areas, or any elements that have appeared within the preferred plan.
- C. CPC members encouraged to bring in photos and examples to indicate preferences within the master plan document,
- D. City/DHM/CPC to schedule upcoming future CPC Meeting to further review/define the preferred park concept
- E. City/DHM/CPC to set a schedule for future Public Workshop #3 – it will not be held on September 17th as previously proposed.
- F. The proposed Approval process, to begin with a public hearing at the Park Board meeting on October 15th, will be reconsidered.

**APPENDIX E: PUBLIC WORKSHOP
MEETING SUMMARIES**

Public Open House #1 Summary (April 11, 2015)

General Information/Sign-In Sheet

- 44 names on sign-in sheet
- 17 neighborhoods represented:
 - Brookhaven (20)
 - Londonderry (4)
 - West Lake (3)
 - Apex (2)
 - Leesville Crest (2)
 - Lake Lynn, Pickwick, The Timbers, Turnberry, Hampton Oaks, Hamstead Crossing, Inman Park, Bridgeport, Ridgeloach, Summerwood (1 each)
- How did you hear about the meeting?
 - Postcard (18)
 - Signage (11)
 - Email (7)
 - CPC Meetings (3)
 - Family (2)
 - Internet (2)
 - Newspaper, community garden, called the City
- Rating of Meeting Location: 5 out of 5
- Rating of Meeting Time: 5 out of 5
- Rating of Meeting Information/Outreach: 4.7 out of 5
- 25 comment forms completed at meeting

Table 1: Resources

Which information shown at this table did you find the most interesting and would like to learn more about? (Note: These show the exact wording of feedback gained at meeting – in alphabetical order)

- Dam preservation site
- Everything
- Historic dam
- History of property
- Historical use of the area
- I loved the chart of possibilities – not interested in dog park or garden (how will you keep the animals out of it?) but walking paths and open space would work great.



Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

- Large, specimen trees – how old are they?
- Overall sense of open space of the park. I had no idea of the depth.
- Possible kids activities, especially playgrounds
- Rock wall location
- That it has so much flood plain and hardwood
- The creek!
- Visuals and aerial views

If you took a site tour, or visited the site previously, what element or area of the park did you find the most interesting? Why? (Note: These show the exact wording of feedback gained at meeting – in alphabetical order)

- I used to visit the park every day until city turned it into a leaf dump. Open space where children could run and play would be nice – used to have swings here. We need more open space to explore, run, and play
- Natural topography and natural planting
- Nice space with many possible applications
- Terrain variety
- The creek and field potential. It is a great exercise space for my dog
- The creek and nature: This acreage of nature is/are in an urban area. Very important.
- The depth – the “hidden” unknown
- The size and versatility: I had never realized the historic points or size. From the road, it is overgrown and no indication how far back the park goes
- Walkway by creek potential. Nice scenic hikes.

Table 2: Values

Of the values presented on the boards today, which values do you feel are the most important for Wooten Meadow Park?

(Note: Those in blue parenthesis were previously ranked as a ‘top five’ with priority by CPC members during CPC Meeting #3)

1. Nature (15) (#1 with 14 votes)
2. Aesthetically pleasing (6) (#5 with 5 votes)
3. Preservation (6) (#2 with 8 votes)
4. Safety (5)
5. Passive activities (4) (#4 with 6 votes)
6. Open space (4)
7. Neighborhood based (3)
8. Quiet (3)



Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

9. Education (#3 with 7 votes), Multigenerational, Unique, Accessibility (1 each)

Please provide any additional values you did not see listed on the board that you feel are best defining of how you envision Wooten Meadow Park being developed?

- For the park to be both welcoming to the community but clearly define property boundaries so that the park does not encourage trespassing
- Community gathering space
- Multipurpose
- Shelter/structures

Table 3: Park Programming

Of the park programming elements presented today, which ones do you believe best align with the park values and site characteristics? (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED BOARDS FROM MEETING FOR REFERENCE IMAGES/NUMBERS)

#7 (7 responses)	#11 (6)	#4 (5)	#8 (5)	#20 (5)
#5 (4)	#1 (3)	#3 (3)	#12 (3)	#13 (3)
#16 (3)	#19 (3)	#6 (2)	#10 (2)	#14 (2)
#15 (2)	#18 (2)	#21 (1)		

Of the park images presented today, which images represent your preferred aesthetic vision of Wooten Meadow Park? (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED BOARDS FROM MEETING FOR REFERENCE IMAGES/NUMBERS)

#4 (9 responses)	#20 (8)	#7 (8)	#10 (3)	#11 (3)
#15 (3)	#13 (3)	#1 (2)	#5 (2)	#12 (2)
#19 (2)	#6 (1)	#8 (1)	#14 (1)	#16 (1)
#18 (1)				

What other park elements would you like to see other than what was presented today? (Note: These show the exact wording of feedback gained at meeting – in alphabetical order)

- An area where kids can plant flowers/vegetable and small trees (Melanie, 6 years old)
- Anything would be an improvement over how it looks now
- Bike trail/greenway connector. Exercise stations – pull ups, etc.



Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

- Community garden and/or bee population initiatives
- Dog park!
- Dog park
- Exercise areas, jogging, pull up bars, etc.
- Greenway connection from here to Crabtree Trail is important to me
- Hiking and nature trail
- Nature hikes
- Nature things
- Need connection to other greenways
- Need sidewalk and pathway accessibility from Brookhaven for residents
- This was presented but just to emphasized I would love playgrounds in this area and trails
- Skate park
- Youth outreach (girl scout programs, trail hikes, etc.)

Other general comments about the future of Wooten Meadow Park: (Note: These show the exact wording of feedback gained at meeting – in alphabetical order)

- A perfect family and community garden
- A quiet park where you can take a walk or have a picnic
- Can we use the creek? Make it part of the park?
- Concerned about the traffic and safety on walkways. Don't tear down the trees.
- Don't overbuild but emphasize its natural values and structure
- Great area, love the see it developed
- Great visuals, very helpful for envisioning the future of the site
- I am very concerned about future pathway planning, especially concerned about the "greenway" shown on my property
- Mr. Wooten left this property to the City of Raleigh to be used as a park – I would like to be able to do that again. Thanks for all you are doing to restore our park to be beautiful like it used to be.
- Natural trails to eventually tie into the greenway
- Nice to have restrooms, covered benches, shaded walking trail with trees
- NO soccer fields or dog park
- Not excited about soccer/sports fields
- Not really excited about courts. Kids play at York Elementary so something different but similar with natural elements
- Thank you!
- This is a beautiful natural area which when made more accessible would create a great natural area
- This is a small area, keep sports fields and playgrounds out
- What impact would the park have on wildlife in the area?



MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: *Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan*

MEETING DATE & TIME: June 22, 2015 @ 8:00pm – 8:30 pm (Public Workshop 6:00pm – 8:00pm)

MEETING LOCATION: York Elementary

ATTENDEES:

Consultant Team: Graham Smith (DHM Design); Kara Peach (DHM Design); Jeremy Arnett (DHM Design);
Sheema Laguerre (DHM Design)

City of Raleigh Staff: Matthew Keough (PRCR); Shawsheen Baker (PRCR); Diane Sauer (PRCR)

CPC Members: Maggie Barlow, Steve Sheriff, Eric Childs, Ralph Sherwin, Michael Durham, Joanna
Smothers, Carolyn Solomon, Cathy Sprinkle, Allison Wilkinson, Stephanie Avett

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION LIST (CPC persons not in attendance at meeting):

CPC Members: Jennifer Hoverstad, Hobert Orton, Ryan Moore, Julie White, Kevin Kirton, Carole
Sawicki, Rodger Koopman, Carol Claggett, Caroline Landon, Laurie Williams

1. PUBLIC WORKSHOP (6:00pm-8:00pm)

A. WELCOME

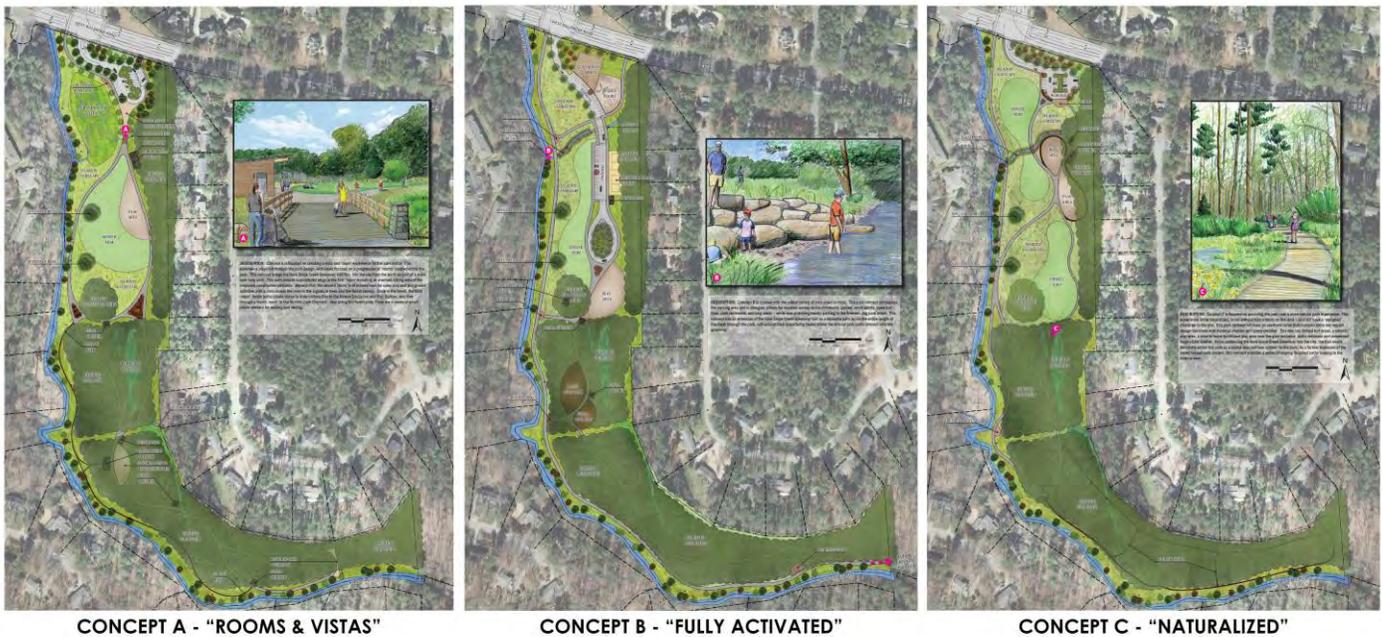
- a) Matthew Keough provided a welcome and introduced city staff in attendance
- b) DHM reviewed meeting agenda, meeting goals, meeting format, and the project team present
- c) DHM discussed project timeline and where this meeting fits in

B. PRESENTATION OF THREE PARK CONCEPTS

- a) DHM presented the three park concepts:
 - a. Concept A – “Rooms with Views”
 - i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept A is focused on creating a vista and ‘room’ experience for the park visitor. This experience plays out through the park design, with views focused on a progression of ‘rooms’ created within the park. The concept brings the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway trail fully into the site from the north as part of a main park loop path. This path creates a sculptured edge to the first ‘room’ including an overlook sitting area of the proposed constructed wetlands. Beyond that, the second ‘room’ is of mowed lawn for open play and playground activities with a vista across the lawn to the signature trees and the forest canopy. Once in the forest, the third ‘room’ is comprised of forest paths that provide vistas to draw visitors first to the Nature Education and Play Station, and then through a fourth ‘room’ of the Historic Dam Overlook. Also along this forest path, there are a series of small picnic shelters for seating and resting.”
 - b. Concept B – “Fully Activated”
 - i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept B is created with the widest variety of park users in mind. This park concept reimagines the parking area and in doing so, allows for required access to the community garden, court sports, open turf lawn, park restrooms, and play areas – while also providing nearby parking to the forested dog park areas. This concept has an extension of the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway trail as a separate path to run the entire length of the creek through the park, with educational opportunity nodes where the interior park paths interact with the greenway.”

c. Concept C – “Naturalized”

- i. Concept’s written description was presented as follows: “Concept C is focused on providing the park user a more natural park experience. This experience, while naturalized, is not without man’s touch on the land – as it will have a ‘designed’ character to the site. This park concept will have an aesthetic value that contains more low-impact design decisions with material choices and space creation. This one has limited turf areas, a natural play area, a smaller more traditional play area near the park entrance, and a restroom and connected large picnic shelter. While continuing the Hare Snipe Creek Greenway into the site, the trail would terminate within this park as a paved loop pathway system for the park. As a further extension of the paved looped path system, this concept provides a series of looping mulched paths leading to the historic dam.



C. PUBLIC FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS (LARGE GROUP)

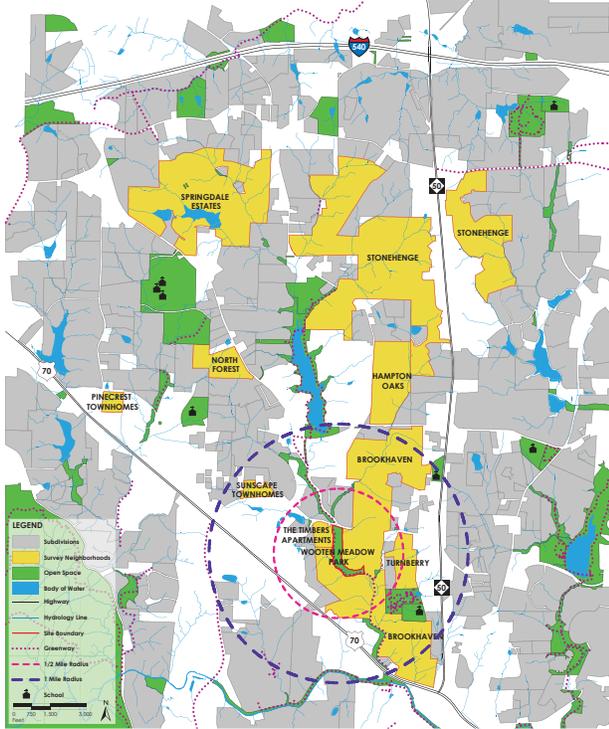
- The audience asked approximately a dozen questions – mostly related to greenway alignment, greenway access, neighborhood connections, construction costs and phasing, dog park arrangement, and the proposed constructed wetlands.
- After questions ended, DHM handed out a questionnaire/survey for the audience to review. It was suggested that this questionnaire/survey would be very useful as the audience split into small groups at ‘stations’ to review the individual concepts.
- DHM and Matthew spoke about the questionnaire/survey being posted soon online– for continued feedback from those community members that were not able to attend this public workshop.

D. PUBLIC FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS (SMALL GROUPS)

- DHM placed a facilitator at each of the three ‘stations’ to gather input, answer questions, and ensure dialogue kept flowing.
- DHM staff encouraged all attendees to fill out the survey either before the end of the meeting, or soon after the meeting. (NOTE: 44 ATTENDEES DID FILL OUT SURVEY THAT NIGHT)
- City staff circulated amongst all stations providing answers as needed.
- Questions and comments focused on the following items:
 - Explain more about the constructed wetland

- b. More information requested on what the naturalistic concept means
- c. Greenway connections (physical construction vs. easement/future build location) – what is the first phase?
- d. Archaeological or historical feature/focus?
- e. Definition of Forested Recreation
- f. Volleyball court needs
- g. Parking – size versus needs
- h. Safety in woods
- i. Dog park – noise, hours, lighting, access, odors, appropriateness for this park
- j. Parking/access from Hermitage strongly discouraged by several immediate residents
- k. Park phasing
- l. Concerns about park visitors wandering onto immediately adjacent private property – signage, fencing, City’s role, etc.
- m. Restrooms – locations, management, safety

**APPENDIX F: PUBLIC WORKSHOP
GRAPHIC BOARDS**



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Context Map



Please visit the project website for more information
www.RaleighNC.gov
Search for Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Overall Schedule

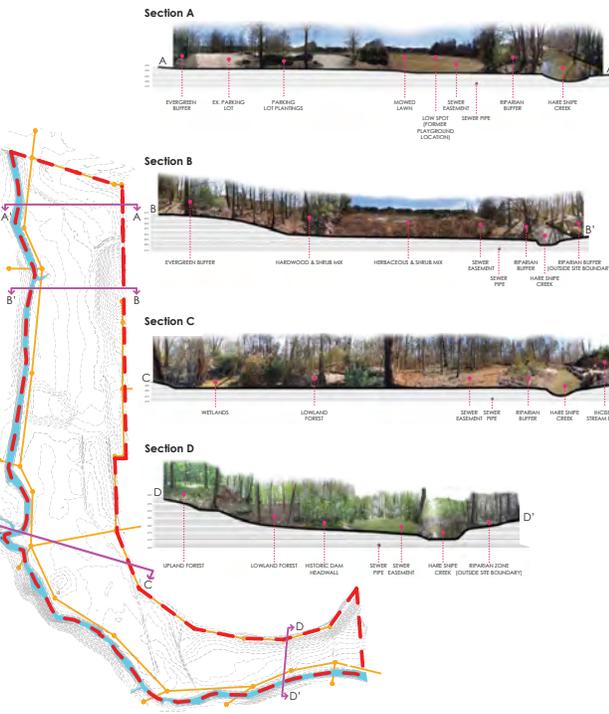
- 2014
 - Summer '14
 - Completion, by City staff, of System Integration Plan (SIP)
 - Request for Proposal for Consultants
 - Consultant Selection
 - Consultant Contracting
 - September '14
 - Northwest CAC Presentation
 - Project Webpage (City Website)
 - Coordinated Site Visits (Team and City)
 - Web-based Community Survey
 - October '14
 - Community Interviews
 - Creation of Citizens Planning Committee (CPC)
 - Creation of Situational Assessment (SA) Document
 - Presentation of CPC suggestions, SA, and SIP to Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB)
 - November '14
 - Presentation of CPC suggestions, SA, and SIP to City Council
 - December '14
 - CPC Meeting #1 (Charter, Vision, Project Introduction)
- 2015
 - January '15
 - Site Analysis Documentation
 - February '15
 - CPC Meeting #2 (Charter, Vision, Findings and Opportunities)
 - March '15
 - CPC Meeting #3 (Findings and Opportunities)
 - April '15
 - Public Workshop #1
 - May '15
 - CPC Meeting #4 (Design Charette)
 - Alternative Park Creation
 - June '15
 - CPC Meeting #5 (Alternative Park Concept Review)
 - Public Workshop #2 (Alternative Park Concept Review)
 - July '15
 - Preferred Concept Creation
 - CPC Meeting #6 (Preferred Concept Review)
 - August '15
 - Public Workshop #3 (Preferred Concept Review)
 - September '15
 - Draft Master Plan Report Creation
 - CPC Meeting #7 (Draft Master Plan Report Review)
 - October '15
 - Final Master Plan Report Creation
 - CPC Meeting #8 (Final Master Plan Report Review)
 - November '15
 - Presentation of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan to PRGAB
 - December '15
 - Approval of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan to PRGAB
 - Presentation and Approval of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan to City Council



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Master Planning Process



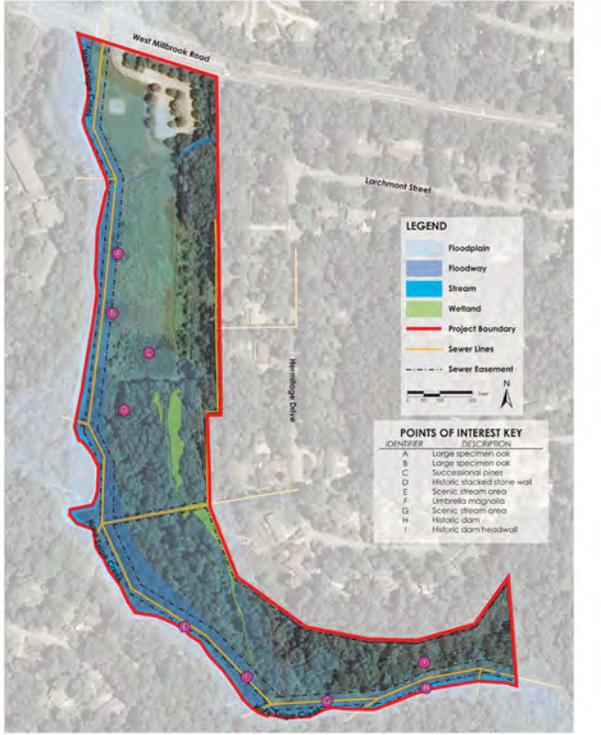
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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
SECTION PERSPECTIVES



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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Site Analysis Map



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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Programming Elements



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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Programming Elements



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PRESERVATION

SAFETY

EDUCATION

AESTHETICALLY PLEASING

OPEN SPACE

CULTURAL RESOURCES

MULTI-GENERATIONAL

NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED

NATURE

QUIET

PASSIVE ACTIVITIES

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

UNIQUE

ACCESSIBILITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Values



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Watershed to West Millbrook Road (Area D)

97% from the North (Area D)
• Primarily Single and Multifamily Residential with some industrial and Commercial land use

2% from the West (Areas E-J)
• Approx. 40% Single Family
• Approx. 60% Commercial or Multifamily
• Approx. 126 Acres

1% from the East (Areas A-C)
• All Single Family Residential
• Approx. 58 Acres

DRAINAGE AREA	AREA (ACRES)	% OF TOTAL WATERSHED
A	40	0.66%
B	6	0.09%
C	12	0.20%
D	5,881	96.98%
E	4	0.06%
F	1	0.01%
G	64	1.05%
H	16	0.27%
I	2	0.03%
J	39	0.63%



Watershed to Wooten Meadow Park



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
Watershed Map



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DESCRIPTION: Concept A is focused on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park.



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
CONCEPT A - "ROOMS & VISTAS"



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DESCRIPTION: Concept B is focused on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park.



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
CONCEPT B - "FULLY ACTIVATED"



Please visit the project website for more information
www.RaleighNC.gov
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DESCRIPTION: Concept C is focused on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park. The emphasis is on creating a series of "rooms" or vistas throughout the park.



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN
CONCEPT C - "NATURALIZED"



Please visit the project website for more information
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Search for Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan



Parking area and lawn



Meadow landscape alongside creek



Transition of meadow landscape into forest



Erosion concerns along Hare Snipe Creek



Scenic rocky outcrop along creek



Mature pine forest



Oxbow along creek route



Sewer easement within forest



Mixed hardwood forest



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS



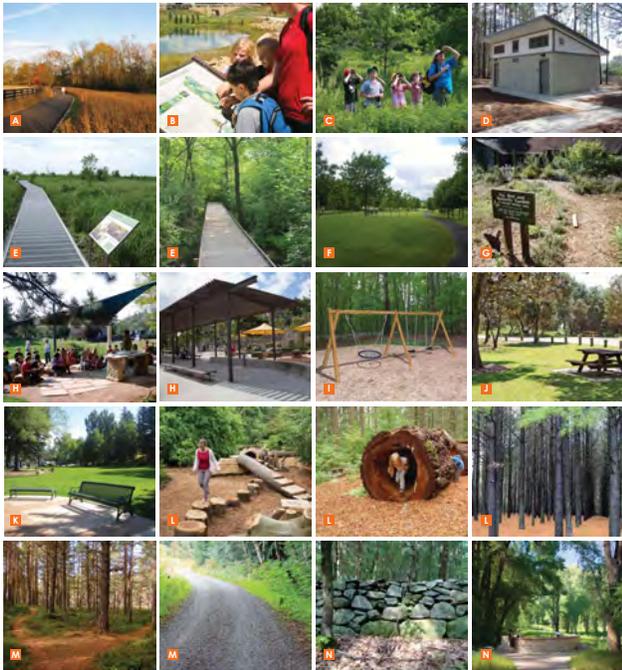
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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN CPC REVIEW CONCEPT



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WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS



Please visit the project website for more information.
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Overall Schedule

- Summer '14**
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- June '15**
 - Public Workshop #2 (Alternative Park Concepts Review)
 - CPC Meeting #5 (Alternative Park Concepts Review)
- July '15**
 - Concept Refinement
- August '15**
 - CPC Meeting #6 (Refined Concept Review)
- September '15**
 - Concept Refinement
- October '15**
 - CPC Meeting #7 (Refined Concept Review)
 - **Public Workshop #3 (Refined Concept Review)**
 - Draft Master Plan Report Creation
 - CPC Meeting #8 (Community Consensus Recommendations to the Parks Board)
- November '15**
 - Final Master Plan Report Creation
 - Public Hearing on the Park Master Plan to PRGAB
- December '15**
 - Approval of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan to PRGAB
- January '16**
 - Presentation and Approval of Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan to City Council



WOOTEN MEADOW PARK MASTER PLAN PROJECT SCHEDULE



Please visit the project website for more information.
www.RaleighNC.gov
Search for Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

APPENDIX G: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What is a park master plan?

A park master plan is a long range plan for development and use for an individual park site. It includes a Program Statement that includes a vision statement and a description of corresponding recommended park elements. Details are provided through a conceptual graphic plan, phasing and priority suggestions, and cost elements for park development. A park master plan also documents the park planning process, such as the site analysis, community assessment, and public input.

How long will the process take?

The public planning process was initiated in September 2014 and will last through the end of 2015 when a park master plan recommendation is presented to the Raleigh City Council for their approval or referral back to the planning process.

How long will park construction take? Will there be phased implementation for park construction?

The final master plan will identify phases of park development over a 20-year time period, prioritized based on community input and feasibility. Phase 1 is expected to begin design process immediately upon completion of the master plan. Specific site improvements and further phases will occur as funding opportunities become available.

How much money is designated for park construction?

There is limited funding currently designated to advance the master plan into the first phase of site improvements, roughly \$300,000 in capital funds identified through 2018. Additional site improvements or park phases, described in the final master plan, will require identification of new funds in future city budgeting cycles.

What is the CPC and how was it formed?

The Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) is composed of volunteers identified by community contacts and solicited through a Community Survey, which was publicized in September 2014. All individuals who expressed interest were interviewed by a third-party facilitator who worked to ensure diversity in age, length of tenure in the area, household makeup, neighborhood, interests, knowledge, and skills. The Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board then recommended the committee for appointment by the Raleigh City Council.

The purpose of the CPC is to act as a representative group of the larger community, provide project direction, and lead community deliberations over the park master plan. The individuals are also tasked to act as community conduits, promoting park planning and reporting community feedback to the CPC. They meet throughout the master planning process and work to establish consensus for the park master plan.

How will neighborhoods north of Millbrook access the park safely?

There is currently a greenway trail section that ends at the northwest corner of the Millbrook and Leesville Roads intersection, adjacent to the park. The project team is working with NCDOT and the City Transportation Planning offices to create and improved pedestrian access to this point on Millbrook and to the park. The citywide Park System plan identifies local park access as a policy priority, prompting capital funding allocations for this purpose over the next 5 years.

Will there be any alternative access points (besides Millbrook Road) into the park?

There may be additional pedestrian connections. None have been determined at this time. If recommended in the park master planning process, new access ways would be studied over time while city-managed utility easements (which do not provide legal pedestrian access now) have the potential to serve as connectors to and from the Brookhaven neighborhood.



Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan

Will there be any mitigation for the possible noises made at the park?

Noise is a special concern in this location due to the site's topography and documented noise concerns, particularly related to athletic field use that occurred on site in the past. Noise mitigation measures, identified in the master plan, will be fully considered, with public input, whenever future improvement projects are proposed.

What are park operating hours?

In general, City of Raleigh parks are open from dawn until dusk every day. Parks with formalized facilities such as a community center and athletic courts with lights are used beyond daylight hours, such as Lake Lynn Park.

What would a greenway connection look like through the park?

The Capital Area Greenway System Master Plan shows a greenway planning corridor on this site, straddling the midpoint of Hare Snipe Creek, from Millbrook Road out to the south/southeast boundary of the park. This corridor is for planning purposes, suggesting appropriate locations for open space easements and trail connectors within the larger system. To designate and plan a greenway trail connector on this site would require aligned "downstream" trail commitments which do not currently exist. If a greenway trail is ultimately developed on this site, it would not have to locate within the designated corridor, adjacent to Hare Snipe Creek. It could, instead, meander through the site and also function as a primary trail within the park.

What are the boundaries of private property?

Along the western edge, the City's ownership ends approximately in the middle of Hare Snipe Creek. Along the eastern edge, the City's sewer easement is usually identifiable, with the midpoint of the easement generally aligned with the property line. In the southern part of the site, park identification signs and survey stakes help identify a less-linear park edge.

What happens if a park visitor wanders onto private property? How are liability and damages handled?

This situation presents a private property legal matter. The park's design and development – to be governed by the master plan - can improve upon the identification of park boundaries and of intentional public spaces.

What security measures will take place with this park development?

The park's development is expected to activate the space with more visitors. This will lead to more "eyes on the site," and increased visits from park maintenance staff. The presence of people and regular maintenance has been shown to effectively limit unfavorable activities and to drop crime incidents significantly. Additionally, the possibility of more open lines-of-sight through certain sections of the park would allow for visibility and enhanced security.

Could the mill pond be restored?

Restoration of the mill pond would be a significant and impactful design element. It would be highly dependent on a state permitting process as well as specialized funding. If pursued, it could not be built in its original status as an 'in-line' element of Hare Snipe Creek. Those types of facilities are no longer allowed by federal and state regulations. Therefore, a pond would have to be 'adjacent' to the creek (and to the sewer easement area) and be required to comply with the 100-year floodplain regulations.

How can I provide input?

Input from the public is vital to the success of the Wooten Meadow Park Master Plan and is welcome at all times to the City of Raleigh, especially through parkplan@raleighnc.gov. All interested parties are welcome to attend the public meetings and workshops, including the CPC meetings which include public comment periods. Also, a public hearing will be held at the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board before official City Council public review. The project webpage contains all review materials and includes link for automatic project updates through **MyRaleigh Subscriptions**. Finally, the City's interactive webpage (www.yourparksyourfuture.com) allows users to engage in an open forum discussions regarding this and other City of Raleigh parks. Project Manager Matthew Keough, can be reached directly at the City at (919) 996-2654.

