



HagerSmith
Design PA

HORSESHOE FARM PARK MASTERPLAN

CITY OF RALEIGH PARKS & RECREATION

2ND PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS

Date: March 30, 2005

Location: Campbell Lodge, Durant Nature Park

I. CHARACTER OF THE PROPERTY: **(CHARACTER, SPECIAL FEATURES, LIMITATIONS)**

1. Character: dramatic, pastoral, reflective, stunning natural vistas. *How about an enclosed glass-walled viewing area?
2. Character – surrounded on 3 sides by river. Special features – wetlands and natural area. Limitations – limited development & clearing – leave more natural.
3. Archeology: perfect for digs maybe in connection with schools or Wake Tech
4. Maintain the natural feel, environmental aspects, trails for foot & boat access not vehicles.
5. Leave land undisturbed to protect animals and plants
6. Concerned about access road & impact to residents
7. Should be: passive; open; quiet; nature, art oriented; focus on river: nature, kayaks, canoes; picnic areas. Should not be: noisy; well-lit; crowds; sports noise; large parking areas
8. All activities should relate to the river and water quality
9. Low pasture is a grazing area – please leave open for animals + wildlife viewing. *Use foot bridges to tie to area.
10. Should not be developed with buildings, paved parking lots, organized sports. Allow individuals + families to experience natural environment.
11. Would like to see the park stay more passive + preserved.
12. Love the frogs and wetlands. Would hate to see the peaceful nature of this park disrupted by structures or organized sports. It is a much needed pastoral oasis amid the rampant suburban development.
13. Avoid filling open space with ball fields. Soccer center + Buffalo Road provide nearby fields.
14. This should be a nature park and bird sanctuary.
15. The park is great as is. Please leave the park as much “as is” as possible.

16. Character of the park should be open and natural with walking trails, nature trails, greenway access, canoe access, etc.
17. Leave it just the way it is, except for a petting zoo.
18. Archeological field school site. I agree.
19. Unique oasis of natural beauty in an increasingly developed area. As much as possible, leave it natural.
20. Homestead has great character
21. wonderful open & natural spaces
22. Try to preserve (and improve) bird and wildlife habitat
23. Rural + farmland need to retain part of that character
24. I love walking on the property 2-3 times per week (weather permitting). It's peaceful + we love seeing the deer at dusk. (We have seen up to 40 at 1 time.) I love the peacefulness and quiet. Gale Blinson 266-1920.
25. Preserve the character and features that Jamie spoke to at 30 Mar. meeting: nature; sounds; inspiring views; wildlife
26. Would like the park development to be balanced with care for wildlife
27. Nature park
28. Protect the spectacular ridge between the upper and lower fields. How about hang gliding? (Just kidding) and inspirational piece of real estate... Don't destroy with structured ball fields.
29. Maintain open feel in some of the pasture area – for family use: games, kite flying, etc.
30. Wonderful native area. A tie to the river is a must!
31. Restoration of white fence to provide visual delineation – with extensions as needed.
32. Special feature is homestead and surrounding yard perfect for arts ed.
33. Special- this is a place where the public can enjoy a farm-like setting normally not available to them.
34. History, farm, archeology
35. Wildlife protection. Flora, fauna & wildlife; respect & education for archeological sites
36. Keep as natural as possible; hiking trails; mountain biking trails; mountain biking trails; single track; absolute minimize impervious surface; leave as many trees as possible
37. Pay particular attention to the natural geographical features & protect & highlight the uniqueness of the area such as the granitic outcroppings & wetlands.
38. As much passive recreational opportunities as possible. As much nature's environmental education as possible.
39. Give people as much opportunity as possible to enjoy this space in a natural setting with respect & appreciation for the natural environment.

40. Connections to the river; greenway; canoe access; fishing; bridge to other side; buffers; protection

II. THE ELEMENTS (FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, PROGRAMS)

1. Excellent site to provide facilities to support adventure programs – canoe kayak, ropes course, hiking, climbing, etc.
2. Need arts facility in the eastern ½ of county. Need to focus on the river + provide ways for the public to see/feel/appreciate it.
3. Access to the park from the river for kayak & canoe
4. Informal amphitheater/ performance area
5. Camping
6. Nature trails...environmental education...aquatic sampling education
7. River access for paddlers of various types & levels... Environmental -- as natural as possible
8. Handicapped nature trail: alongside river, reasonable flat, easily constructed.
9. Canoe access; river walk
10. (Learning Centers) learning about horses and animals
11. Passive recreational activities (hiking, picnicking, etc.) not organized athletics
12. Year round (enclosed) swimming pool
13. Baseball fields lie vacant, can always find a tennis court, no room for theater parking...How about adventures, river experiences, animal encounters?
14. Naturalist-led activities: nature photography; naturalist presentations; readings/ book signing by naturalist authors; plant/ animal identification; ecological awareness
15. Nature programs; hands-on environmental studies that take advantage of river, forest, wetlands; living laboratory (environmental education; walking trails; opportunities to view wildlife; canoeing, rowing; interpretative areas – archeological /historical nature; also digs
16. Have at least two canoe access areas
17. Programs: environmental educ focusing on water quality, river; wildlife watch; canoeing; archeological dig; caring for wildlife, animals; kite day, riverfest
18. Connection with Neuse River Greenway via bridge(s)
19. Nature & hiking
20. Don't want just a different Durant Park
21. History/ archeology trails (concurrent with natures environment)
22. Yoga; dog park; picnic shelters, tai chi; water access
23. Literacy and arts activities (story telling; arts & crafts; writing linked to nature, the river)

24. Bird-watching; pastoral lawn; unpaved nature walks; ecosystem education (so many unique opportunities); pedestrian bridge access to soccer fields and other city property; nature
25. Create links to Wake Tech. – North – new campus across river
26. Have a nature trail all along river with frequent benches for handicapped + seniors
27. Nature programs; passive use hiking; arts
28. Would like to see dog park & dog related activities; obedience classes; agility
29. Water access w/o disturbing wetlands
30. Canoe/ kayak access to park; mtn bike trail, singee (sp.?) track; connection to greenway
31. Keep house (red farm) for programming nature, art, etc., science
32. Canoe and kayak; great beginner's training ground, especially first solo experience: short in/out, safe, observance
33. Access to launch kayaks and canoe
34. Birding education build birdhouses, create habitat
35. Watercraft access (canoe, kayak, fishing (?)); unique opportunity at the Horseshoe to create a mini-canoe trail for recreation/ instruction. Dual access perhaps? Paul Joffrion.
36. Canoe launches – halfway between Falls & Buffalo Rd. launches; canoe lessons for river boating
37. Do not want gymnasium, ball fields (we drive short distance to Rolesville), etc. This would not only destroy the natural habitat & beauty, but present high traffic area we do not want! Neighbors with same views: Mary Musser 266-9896; Wesley & Cindy Thompson 217-3818; Joan & Tony Stutts.
38. Would love to see nature programs and/or art programs. There is an artist who lives at the house nearest to the park. Gale Blinson 266-1920.
39. Canoe/ kayak launches. Rentals?
40. Kayak access to the park
41. Schooling uses (homeschool, etc.)
42. Canoe launching spot – with rental facility + supplies for sale
43. Adventure – this should leave the park as natural as possible
44. Improved access road and adequate parking lot.
45. Restoration of existing house and barn for events or programmed use.
46. Picnic tables
47. Why not consider having an urban farm? Connect residents with the rural environment. Nothing like this now.
48. Riverside camping with access from the river only
49. Nature leave the park as much “as is” as possible

50. A comm. center building should be geared toward nature and artifacts programs. –P. May
51. Elements: adventure programs – kayaking, canoeing; nature programs – hiking, birding, handicap access; arts programs – natural amphitheater
52. History; archeological digs
53. River edge walkway
54. The river edge is wonderful. Create a nature walk at the river's edge. Don't make it too perfect. Leave nature's rough edges.
55. How about horses and farm animals. The name says it all.
56. Boardwalk through wetland area with nature signage.
57. Summer camp programming for kids, teens.
58. Please include public art to enhance park theme!
59. Environmental education: wetland, pasture, river, microclimates; with a scientific perspective.
60. Lots of unstructured unprogrammed activities too! Picnicking; kite flying; bird watching; walking.
61. Provide canoe access & canoe campsites.
62. A staffed comm. Center w/ gym is a must for this growing area of the city! -P. May
63. Randy Ray mentioned many multi- and heavy use facilities and only 2 other nature parks. This property is the perfect third nature park.
64. Preserve bird & wildlife habitat. Impress & educate on water quality.
65. Maintain the connection to the greenway system.
66. Pedestrian bridge to connect greenway across river.
67. Segmented small open spaces for picnic, soccer practices, outings, etc. See comment card. Charlie Slagle – CASL
68. Use the existing house for art programs, etc.
69. Have a bird song identification program – visually impaired can participate
70. exercise/fitness
71. We love the adventure program
72. Horse riding park?
73. Canoe launch at both sides of park. Can put in at one and take out at other.
74. Wildlife viewing
75. Emphasize educational programming for small/young children and seniors, with opportunities for the two groups to interact.

76. Kite flying; balloon launch

77. Picnic shelters

III. A VISION (CHARACTER, ATMOSPHERE)

1. Put up a “bluebird trail” all along the edge of the woods. Also purple martin houses.
2. Canoe access should be available
3. Would like to see land used in such a way as to preserve its natural beauty, such as a nature park. We homeschool + enjoy going here to observe, keep nature notebooks, walk & ride bikes. –Mary Musser 266-9896. (also—Cindy & Wesley Thompson (?spelling) 217-3818; Tony & Joan Stutts)
4. Petting zoo
5. Open, quiet feel; easy to access it –trails; focus on the river which is most of its boundaries; focus on the trees, creatures, water, pasture.
6. Keep natural and retain farm’s character; passive use
7. Pastoral, farm-like; maintain natural + farm identity; teach stewardship of land + natural resources
8. Wildlife environment & archeological focus
9. Natural for outdoors adventures
10. A place to enjoy walks with my dogs and watch the sunset
11. Passive use
12. We have sports at every park. Could we not have one park that is just a natural park? Minimizing changes, community with nature.
13. A metro nature park, not a “community” park
14. Nature-oriented programs
15. Area should remain natural and available for outdoor activities
16. Do not try to be all things to all people! It will dilute the sense of place & identity of park.
17. Leave it as natural as possible.
18. The park should be designed with constant consideration about its relationship to the Neuse River. Giving people access (like canoe, canoe only camping, river walk, nature trail, fishing platforms) To be connected to the river. There should also be historical & educational information about the river, i.e.: How Native Americans used it; river basin maps (like at Blue Jay Point).
19. Keep as natural as possible
20. All development in the park should be a model for Low Impact Development, maximum riparian buffers, and preservation of natural habitats.
21. Vision: the unique natural and physical characteristics of the property are so very special and should be preserved. Any facilities should blend with the quiet, pastoral environment.

22. Maintain some natural beauty & wildlife
23. Retain natural beauty, tranquility, diversity of nature. Limit development.
24. Petting zoo & riding ponies
25. Nature oriented; wildlife; river focus
26. Strong natural presence; less sports
27. Love being able to walk and see deer at dusk – wouldn't want to scare the deer away. Gale Blinson 266-1920.
28. Art center
29. River theme: water quality for humans; animals and river; riverfest coordinated with Neuse River Foundation; wetlands; environmental activities & groups
30. Put up bluebird houses & bald eagle sites.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS ***(WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO TELL US?)***

1. Name change? Horseshoe Bend Park, since historical significance predates a farm.
2. Have a butterfly and hummingbird meadow
3. Park need swimming pool
4. Safety for the young children – the bank to the river is very steep + the water runs fast when the river is deep (Gale Blinson 266-1920)
5. Concerns:
 - *Ligon Mill high traffic already (to add entrance off Ligon Mill would make crossing on foot or bike even more dangerous
 - *Safety of younger children along river banks
6. Need handicap accessible nature trail
7. Access property from other side of the river w/ pedestrian bridges
8. Canoe launch at park side of river at least one but maybe two
9. Please do not try to do everything here – keep it simple and special
10. Bandshell area for open air concerts and similar events – Similar to Regency Park in Cary (at opposite end of city)
11. Community concerts and festivals
12. Keep homestead as a historical interpretative area (Oakview)
13. The park entrance and Ligon Mill cannot handle hordes of traffic that would result with soccer or other athletic programs. I live on Ole Neuse Trail + it is already difficult to turn left on Ligon Mill Rd to go to 401 (Gale Blinson 266-1920)
14. Why are we even here? Raleigh is going to do what they want anyway.

15. Renovate homestead for arts or nature ed. Programs
16. Access: The road now is narrow + potentially dangerous.
17. Consider redesignation of park (to Metro?) Typical community park facilities don't fit with this property.
18. Concerns about road access and emergency vehicular access
19. Change classification of park to metro (more appropriate for size + character of park)
20. Keep it natural...minimal facilities...maximum access
21. Don't like the idea of increased impervious area
22. Leave the land natural
23. Please try to leave the park as much "as is" as possible
24. Leave existing structures to be used
25. Visibility on 401 means more park users. Add access from other side of river. Buy land if necessary.
26. Consistency of Name: Current recorded plats for Horse Shoe Farm, as well as recorded deeds as far back as 1880 refer to this property as the "Horse Shoe Farm" or "Horse Shoe Tract." With the park planning, I have seen both "Horseshoe Farm" (one word) and "Horseshoe Farms" (plural). To respect the history of this property the name should consistently be "Horse Shoe Farm"
27. Do not summarize comments received tonight – Please document all comments verbatim for committee to review.
28. Save the open land, nature for future generations! Don't build a bunch of poorly maintained facilities. There are other places for that!