River Bend Park Master Plan: Situation Assessment

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References
Executive Summary

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) and the selected design consultant, CLH design, p.a. (CLH), are collaborating on the development of a Master Plan for the future River Bend Park located at 6580 Perry Creek Road in north Raleigh.

The proposed River Bend Park is within the 5401 North PDD, a 402-acre planned residential and mixed-use development set at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Highway 401 North and Interstate 540 (see Appendix A). 5401 North’s Vision Plan is a pedestrian oriented Urban Village community with a walkable and cyclist friendly network of trails and streets.

The first part of this master plan process is conducting a Situation Assessment that includes site analysis, community research and data collection, a public meeting with the area’s Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), a community survey, establishment of a public website, and interviews with stakeholders.

The key community concerns and recommendations identified from the stakeholder interviews and the community survey include:

- Gathering Space
- Multi-purpose Recreational Area
- Functional Play Park (typical play area)
- Comprehensive Community Representation
- Focal Point
- Accessibility and Safety
- Compliment the Community
- Greenway Access/Connection

This initial phase also includes the gathering of a list of recommended Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) members comprised of stakeholders that work together with the project team in the master planning process. The CPC membership recommendations and Situation Assessment is presented to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) with final approval by the Raleigh City Council.

Following the Council’s approval, the Project Team and the CPC begin the next phase of master planning by generating a park design addressing the issues and recommendations identified. This involves gathering the community’s feedback during subsequent public meetings so that the end result will be a Master Plan the community and City can embrace.
Introduction

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and the selected design consultant, CLH, are collaborating on the development of a Master Plan for the River Bend Park. The public master plan process helps identify specific community needs that are desired in a park. The process for the development of the Master Plan and engagement of the community in the park planning follows the Comprehensive Public Participation Program for Park Planning (City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department, May 2012 – Updated December 2014).

Project Overview

The proposed River Bend Park is located at 6580 Perry Creek Road northeast of the intersection of Louisburg Road and I-540 in North Raleigh. This 24.9 acre vacant property is within the proposed 5401 North Planned Development District (PDD) of residential and mixed use located south of the Northern Campus of Wake Tech Community College. The Neuse Greenway Trail traverses through the east side of the park with the future River Bend Middle School to be constructed on the property adjacent to the west.

The future River Bend park property was purchased by the City of Raleigh in 2012 from the 5401 North, LLC as a potential neighborhood park site. The park parcel is zoned Residential-6-CU (Planned Development Conditional Use Overlay).
Means and Methods

To begin the public master plan process, a Situation Assessment is conducted to collect information about the surrounding communities, identify stakeholders and issues important to them and assess the communities’ needs. The Situation Assessment’s purpose is to provide means for an effective public participation process by understanding the needs, issues, and conditions of the stakeholder community and park master plan.

Research, public participation, review of the study area context and demographics, field review, and site analysis and observation are some of the methodology that is used in developing the Situation Assessment report. Additionally, methods for community engagement were established early in the process to include social media outreach, stakeholder interviews, community survey, public meetings, and the selection and participation of a Citizen Planning Committee.

Site Context

System Integration Plan Summary

An initial component of the public park master plan process is the System Integration Plan (SIP). This involves public review and participation from partner agencies and is developed with input and oversight from the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board.

The System Integration Plan – Perry Creek Road Property April 2015 was prepared by the City of Raleigh in April 2015 for the River Bend Park property, then known as Perry Creek Road Property. The SIP documents existing site conditions by beginning the process of site inventory for natural and cultural resources, provides recommendations for interim site management, and reviews the park’s intended classification and any proposed intent for the park.

Site Analysis Review

A majority of the 24.9 acre vacant site is wooded with the property’s topography generally sloping to the east and southeast toward the Neuse River. There are steep sloped areas located near the northeast corner of the property and the center of the property. A significant portion of the property contains floodplains as the site adjoins the Neuse River. A greater part of the floodplains is within the Upper Neuse River Floodplain Significant Natural Heritage Area, identified as an ecologically valuable natural area. Preliminary investigation of historical and cultural resources of the property have identified no significant resources. The site does not meet the City of Raleigh’s Nature Preserve criteria.

The Neuse River Greenway is located on the park property adjacent to the Neuse River. A 60 ft. wide City of Raleigh Public Utility Easement for a 48-inch sanitary sewer interceptor traverses through the property along the Neuse River Greenway.

A more comprehensive description of the site can be found in the SIP documentation, System Integration Plan – Perry Creek Road Property April 2015. This document can be found on the City of Raleigh’s website for the River Bend Park Master Plan.
Community Framework

Demographics

Since there are few established neighborhoods abutting the proposed park with the exception of those across the Neuse River and the west side of US 401 Highway, the typical planning process for collecting existing demographic data will not provide the sufficient information needed to ensure that the future community needs are being addressed. Therefore, a critical component of the River Bend Park planning process became not only understanding the area’s current demographics, but the area’s projected market profile and lifestyle. The 5401 North developer helped address this by providing general development marketing studies and consumer psychographic information for the area. Demographic information includes gender, age, income, race, and marital status. Psychographic information predicts their habits, hobbies, spending habits and values. The combination of both sets of data and understanding them will help the CPC to effectively address the target audience needs.

The project demographics for this report were provided by the City of Raleigh PRCR’s GIS section using Esri Community Analyst 2015. The demographic information is based on community data from the four closest 2010 census block groups centered on the park site. (2010 census block groups 371830541.041, 371830541.102, 371830540.141 and 371830540.151).

There were a total of 6,089 households that data was provided for from the census block groups. Median household income is $70,055, well educated, more females (53%) than males, with over half of the age range being either between 19-35 or between 36-54. The population makeup is predominately white Caucasian with only 13% Hispanic (see Appendix C).

For the planned 5401 North development, demographic data and the general consumer psychographic information was provided by Engquist-Level Development, LLC. Their information is based on community data from the 27616 zip code for the Raleigh area who plan to buy new construction: 56% are between 18-34 (Millennials), 58% are male and 61% will own a pet. Activities they enjoy include: 54% swimming, 50% jogging/running, 49% gardening, and 54% lawn care (see Appendix C).

The Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Consumer Psychographics show that the general traits of the TND Consumer are: enjoys low maintenance/yard work, busy/family lifestyle, neighborly and social and will accept smaller lot if area amenities supplement. Needs of the TND Consumer are an active environment, open green space and amenities.
**Planned Development**

The proposed River Bend Park is located within the 5401 North PDD, a 402-acre planned residential and mixed-use development located at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Highway 401 North and Interstate 540 (see Appendix A). 5401 North’s Vision Plan is a pedestrian oriented Urban Village community with a walkable and cyclist friendly network of trails and streets.

The area is one of City of Raleigh’s fastest growing districts with the 5401 North development planning over 2,250 single family homes, townhomes, row houses, apartments, senior living residential units, along with 1 million square feet of office space, and commercial retail space.

The City of Raleigh purchased the 24.9-acre park property from 5401 North LLC in 2012 as a potential neighborhood park site. Representatives of the 5401 North development have expressed an interest in being engaged in the planning process for the River Bend Park.

Engquist-Level Development of Baton Rouge, La., a homebuilding company, purchased the 156-acre residential tract of land in October 2013 from Commercial Properties Realty Trust, also of Baton Rouge, which has owned the 5401 North land since it was assembled in 2007.

Construction of the first model homes for Engquist-Level Development’s residential tract started in August 2015 with a soft opening projected for October 2015. The first residential phase of approximately 160 lots is near completion with 80 of the lots currently platted. The remainder of the lots are scheduled to be platted by the middle of October 2015.

Permitting to begin development of the second residential phase of 275 lots is nearly completed. These lots are anticipated to be available for home construction in the late spring/early summer of 2016.

It is anticipated that development activities, at least for the residential component, will extend out through the year 2020, with homebuilding operations extending to the year 2021. According to the developer’s representative, home sales pace will likely start fairly slowly, but should accelerate and stabilize as the neighborhood gains mass, the commercial component starts to come online, and as the school opens. For next year, they are projecting about 60 to 80 home closings, but think that number will likely be in the triple-digit range (i.e., 120 to 140), on an annual basis, as the development progresses into 2017 and beyond. Overall, the project is slated for about 880 homes.

Per the Planned Development Conditional Use Overlay District for the 5401 North Property, a minimum of 15% of the 5401 North development is planned to be reserved as open space. The development’s planned parks and open space includes more than 2.5 miles of walking and biking trails, sidewalks, a 15-acre field with a dog park, community garden space, Tree Conservation Areas, greenways, community gathering areas, pocket parks, and one central amenity.
The central amenity will have one large pool that will be divided into an adult section that is a junior Olympic dimension with swim lanes. The other half of the pool will be a zero entry with kids' splash features. This site will have a cabana/club house building and other separate structures for shade. An open air structure, is also planned that can be multi-functional for yoga and other fitness programs. This facility is scheduled to open late 2016. This facility will also have a large open lawn for multi-purpose activities and a large playground.

The neighborhoods within the development will contain pocket parks scattered throughout that will be either active or passive. The active pocket parks will have play structures, swings, and active equipment. The passive pocket parks will be open lawn areas for creative uses, with benches and landscaping.

The first section of trails is planned for connecting Perry Creek Road to the Neuse River Greenway Trail. This section is scheduled to be built late 2015. The PDD required three access points to the Neuse River Greenway.

**Schools**

River Bend Elementary is an existing multi-track year round school located on 21 acres at 6710 Perry Creek Road, less than a mile to the northwest of the proposed park property. The Wake County Public School opened in 2008 and has 915 enrolled students in primary levels, providing services for grade levels Pre K through 5th Grade.

The future River Bend Middle School is located on 29 acres directly west and adjacent to the proposed park property (see Appendix B for the River Bend Middle School Site Plan). This future 3 story, 1,280 student Wake County Public Middle School is slated to begin construction in August 2015 with anticipated occupancy in August 2017.

Wake Tech’s Northern Wake Campus opened in 2007 as part of the Wake Technical Community College. Wake Tech is an accredited two year technology and liberal arts college. The 127-acre Northern Wake Campus is located at 6600 Louisburg Road, just north of I-540 and serves students from North/Northeast Wake County and Raleigh areas.

The Northern Wake Tech Campus is the first campus in the nation to have all buildings on the campus area LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for environmentally-responsible construction.

Since it opened, enrollment has more than doubled, from 6,491 students the first year to 13,155 in 2014. To address this growth, the Northern Wake Campus continues to expand with recent construction of more than 87,000 square feet of space for a library, including learning commons and classrooms, 782-space parking deck, and a regional energy plant. All these projects were constructed with funds from Wake County’s 2012 bond referendum. Other planned bond funded projects will include three more instructional buildings which will open in 2016. The expansion will enable the college to serve an additional 4,000 students.
Located within the future development of 5401 North, River Bend Park is currently situated in a mostly undeveloped and vacant area. As noted previously under Community Framework: Planned Development, the first phase of construction for a 5401 North residential tract started in August 2015 with residential development activities anticipated to extend through the year 2020. Established neighborhoods within four miles of the park are located either on the opposite side of US401/Louisburg Road or across the Neuse River.

The majority of the established neighborhoods that are the closest in proximity are on the opposite side of the Neuse River with no direct pedestrian or vehicular access to the park property. The nearest access to the Neuse River Trail (that crosses the park property) is from Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve where there is a greenway bridge over the river. There are no sidewalks available and it is difficult to cross US401/Louisburg Road. With no bridge access over the Neuse River, someone from one of the closest neighborhoods across the river from the park would have to drive approximately 5 miles to get to the park. This would involve accessing Mitchell Mill Road to the north to get to US 401/Louisburg Road and then Perry Creek Road. Or travel south on Forestville Road to access Buffaloe Road and 540 to get to US 401/Louisburg Road.

According to neighbors’ comments from the survey and heard at the Forestville CAC meeting, many of the neighborhoods across the Neuse River feel that the park is being built for the future 5401 North
Development and not for the existing neighborhoods nearby. The park is perceived as an “island”. While most of these neighborhoods east of the Neuse River may have community swim clubs and/or preserved natural areas along the river, there is no immediate neighborhood park. One of the initial and more difficult tasks for the Citizen Planning Committee is to address how these established neighborhood communities access the park and evaluate potential opportunities and solutions.

More established neighborhoods within the service area of the park are on the opposite side of US401/Louisburg Road. These residents face similar difficulties with limited or no pedestrian access across US 401/Louisburg, though with a shorter and less difficult vehicular drive getting to the park.

**Nearby Parks**

Currently, there are six developed City of Raleigh Parks System elements within a three mile radius of the future River Bend Park. These include: Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve, Buffaloe Road Athletic Park, Spring Forest Road Park, the Neuse River Greenway Trail, Berkshire Downs West Park, and Marsh Creek Park. Active recreational parks include Buffaloe Road, Spring Forest Road, Marsh Creek, and Berkshire Downs West Parks, with an aquatic center at Buffaloe Road. Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve is an open space/passive recreation preserve and the Neuse River Greenway Trail is a 27-mile linear park and a significant part of the City’s Greenway System.
The nearby surrounding City of Raleigh Parks’ current or planned amenities include the following:

Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve
- Meadows
- Old Farmhouse
- Picnic Shelter
- Soft Surface Walking Trails
- Neuse River Greenway Connection
- Restroom Facility
- Environmental Education Arts Center (Future)
- Public Art (Future)
- River Access Area/Canoe Launch (Future)
- Outdoor Amphitheatre (Future)
- Playground (Future)
- Additional Parking (Future)

Buffaloe Road Athletic Park
- Aquatic Center
- 400 Meter Outdoor Track
- Two Restroom Facilities
- Four Youth Baseball/Softball Fields
- One Older Youth/Adult Baseball Field
- One Multipurpose Field
- Two Playgrounds (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)

Neuse River Greenway Trail
- 27 Mile 10’ Wide Paved Trail
- Boardwalks (Wetland Areas)
- Scenic Views
- Interpretive Signage
- Canoe/Kayak Access

Spring Forest Road Park
- Large Open Space
- Walking Trail
- Picnic Shelter/Restroom Facility
- Four Tennis Courts
- One Youth Baseball/Softball Field
- One Playground (Ages 2-12)
Berkshire Downs West Park

- Playground
- Walking Trail

Marsh Creek Park

- Community Center
- Skate Park
- Inline Rink
- Picnic Shelter/Restroom Facility
- Multi-Purpose Field
- Youth Baseball Field
- Ages 2-5 and 5-12 Playgrounds

Community Outreach, Engagement, and Participation

Community participation is an important component of the master plan process allowing multiple opportunities to engage the community and solicit input throughout the process. This participation helps foster a sense of ownership for the community and encourages future stewardship for the park. The following summarizes the community outreach that has been completed or is currently being used to engage the public during the park planning process.

**Project Website**

The City of Raleigh initiated a project website in July 2015 to inform the community, provide updates of the process, and promote involvement in the Park’s master plan process. The website contains a location map of the site, the current activity, a brief project summary and history, contact information, and a project schedule with dates and description of tasks. Links are provided to access the community survey and for a downloadable version of the draft SIP. The website continues to be a major component of the park planning process by providing future updates and sharing electronic versions of the project documentation with the public as the master plan design progresses.

**Social Media Outreach**

Multiple outlets of social media have been used during the park planning process to encourage community participation, provide information and to promote the River Bend Park. Some of the examples include:

Project announcements and links to the Community Survey were posted on Facebook and Twitter through the project’s website along with use of Nextdoor by some of the nearby neighborhoods.

Another was MyRaleigh Subscriptions (which is a free subscription based service provided by the City of Raleigh) that allowed the City to provide the community access to relevant information about the park planning process by proactively delivering new information through email and wireless alerts.
Forestville Citizens Advisory Council

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) staff and CLH attended the Forestville Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) meeting at the Marsh Creek Park Community Center on July 14, 2015. PRCR staff presented a summary of the River Bend Property’s SIP, an overview of the City of Raleigh's Master Plan Process, and introduced the Project Team.

Attendees provided comment throughout the meeting. Some of the questions that they asked: were how does the City prioritize future parks, how are future park locations selected, how accessibility is provided to the park and how members are selected to serve on the CPC. Other comments and concerns mentioned were that existing neighborhoods across the Neuse River have no direct access to the park, concern with accessibility in Forestville area to the park, and that the park was being built for the future 5401 North development and not for the people already there.

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were conducted from July 13, 2015 through August 4, 2015 to gather insight from individuals with a vested interest in the site and immediate surrounding area. The stakeholders initially contacted were from the project’s Stakeholder Matrix that was established early in the process by PRCR staff and CLH. Other stakeholders were also contacted as names or organizations were suggested (see Appendix E for an example of the Stakeholder Interview Questions).

A total of eleven stakeholders elected to participate (see Appendix D). These included representatives from the City of Raleigh, Forestville CAC, Wake County Public Schools, Wake Technical Community College, and 5401 North, LLC.

Their responses to the questions are summarized by main headings brought forth by the stakeholders.

Area’s Changing Dynamics

Almost all of the participants cited the changes that the future development of 5401 North brings to the area. Anticipated residences to be added to the surrounding area will consist of a mix of young families, dual incomes, no children couples, and single individuals. This will most likely bring some higher price point housing and more density, though most believe that the area will remain a diverse community.

Future development

The future development of 5401 North, along with the new River Bend Middle School, will dramatically alter the surrounding landscape. A major concern to most is that the area’s rapid growth and influx of new development will significantly impact the existing infrastructure and increase traffic congestion.

Park’s Role in the Community

The addition of new residences in this area only highlights the increase of potential users for the future park. Spaces for kids to play, meeting the community’s social needs, providing a gateway/connectivity to the Neuse River and greenway, and creating a place for maintaining an active lifestyle are some of the anticipated roles the park will offer the community.
Community Input Survey

An online community survey was developed to further understand the community’s needs and interests in the planning process for the River Bend Park. The community survey was available online from July 9, 2015 through August 4, 2015. A link to the survey was provided on the project’s website, and promoted through the City of Raleigh’s emails and other social media outlets.

A total of 94 surveys were completed online. Though hard copies were made available at Marsh Creek Park Community Center, none were handed in to be collected. All the survey responses were compiled into an online data base.

Please refer to Appendix F and G for a copy of the community survey questions and additional survey results.

The survey’s key findings are summarized in the below.

Current Park Usage

- Buffaloe Road Athletic Park, Millbrook Exchange Park, Spring Forest Road Park, and Marsh Creek Park were some of the most frequently visited City of Raleigh parks.
- Most of the respondents would be considered infrequent park users, only visiting City of Raleigh parks a few times a month.

Park Planning

- Many of the respondents noted that the park activities that their household had a need for were fitness and wellness activities, nature activities, family activities, aquatics, and river related activities.
- An overwhelming number of respondents said that walkway/trails would be a type of amenity that their household would most likely use at River Bend Park. Greenway access/connection, restrooms, playgrounds, walking/running, picnic access/shelters, and canoe/kayak access were other top amenities selected.
- A majority of the respondents indicated that they would get to River Bend Park by vehicle. Most of those that would walk to the park would arrive from the north. No respondents choose public transportation.
- Respondents selected walking or riding a bike, river related activities, and enjoying the outdoors as the top experiences that should be provided at River Bend Park.
- Respondents provided a wide variety of individuals or organizations they thought should be part of the River Bend Park planning process, including HOA’s, kayak/canoe clubs, cycling and running clubs, CAC’s, surrounding neighborhoods, nearby schools, and youth groups.
Other Comments or Ideas

- Providing a river related amenity such as kayak/canoe access would really make a name for this park.
- Restrooms and picnic shelters in the park would provide a destination or turnaround for greenway users.
- Need for more dog parks.
- Provide safe and convenient access from the neighborhoods on the east side of the river to the Neuse River Greenway and park.
- Nice to see a spray ground and/or playground.
- A need for basketball and tennis courts in the area.
- Easy access for walkers and bikers.
- Thank you for this park, the more the merrier.

Demographic Information

- Ninety percent of the respondents were City of Raleigh residents with over half living at their current address for at least seven years. The majority of the respondents listed 27616 as their home zip code.
- Forty-one neighborhoods were represented in the survey responses with the majority coming from the Winchester, McKinley Woods, Willow Lake, North College Park, and Forestville neighborhoods.
- Forty-seven percent of the respondents listed their age group as being in the 41-59 range with thirty-seven percent in the 23-40 age group range.
- A majority of the respondents indicated that Caucasian/white best described their race.
- Slightly over half of the respondents answered that the age group of 36-54 years old in their household would participate in River Bend Park activities, programs, or services.

Citizen Planning Committee

One of the initial tasks of the park master planning process is the identification and recommendation of interested community members for the Citizen Planning Committee (CPC). Using the data collected from stakeholder interviews, community surveys, recommendations from other stakeholders, and research and demographic analysis, a list was compiled of potential members.

As previously noted, River Bend Park, due to its uniqueness of being within a developing planned community, requires diligence in ensuring that interests of the existing and planned communities are well represented. This involved the addition of representatives for the 5401 North Development, Wake County Schools, and Wake Tech Northern Wake Campus as well as residents from nearby neighborhoods.

Some of the criteria for selection to the CPC was residency in the service area of the park, a willingness to commit the time to attend meetings, have an interest in the park and its uses, and embody diverse demographics and interests.
The following individuals are recommended for the River Bend Park Master Plan Citizen Planning Committee.

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>GROUP REPRESENTED</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Christopher Bjornstad</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Patrick Buffkin</td>
<td>Parks, Recreation &amp; Greenway Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bill Dixon</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>John French</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Gayle Gayton</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ann Godwin</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Stenisha Green</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Joy Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chelsea Jones</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen / Greenway Volunteer</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Christy Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ric Rojas</td>
<td>5401 North Development / Level Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sam Strickland</td>
<td>Wake Tech Northern Wake Campus</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Mike Surasky</td>
<td>Parks, Recreation &amp; Greenway Advisory Board</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tony Tate</td>
<td>5401 North Development</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Latika Vick</td>
<td>Forestville Citizens Advisory Council</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Camille Warren</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
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CPC List Updated 9/23/2015

Additional demographic information is available upon request for each of the recommended members noted above.
Stakeholder Concerns and Recommendations

The key community concerns and recommendations identified from the stakeholder interviews and the community survey include:

- Gathering Space
- Multi-purpose Recreational Area
- Functional Play Park (typical play area)
- Comprehensive Community Representation
- Focal Point
- Accessibility and Safety
- Compliment the Community
- Greenway Access/Connection

Summary / Next Steps

After the CPC membership recommendations and Situation Assessment are presented to and approved by the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) and the Raleigh City Council, the Project Team and the CPC will begin the next phase of master planning. The CPC will meet to develop a consensus park vision plan addressing the issues and recommendations identified in the Situation Assessment. Roles and responsibilities of the members, along with developing strategies are part of the initial meeting.

The first Public Meeting will be held to present the findings, recommendations, and initial conceptual vision for the park and to receive community feedback. Subsequent CPC and Public Meetings will take place leading up to a presentation of the Master Plan to the PRGAB and City Council. The public will continue to be informed throughout the process by project website updates, online notifications, and targeted emails.

The CPC will utilize the data collected for the Situation Assessment continuously throughout the planning process to help with informed decisions regarding their community’s vision for the park. The understanding of the community concerns, projected needs, and recommendations provided in this document will help guide the design team in creating a park Master Plan the community will support and value.
Appendix

A  5401 North PDD Conceptual Master Plan
B  River Bend Middle School Site Plan
C  Community Demographics Data
D  Stakeholder Interviewee List
E  Stakeholder Interview Questions
F  Community Input Survey
G  Community Survey Results
H  Citizen Planning Committee Interview Questions

References
Appendix A  5401 North PDD Conceptual Master Plan
Appendix B  River Bend Middle School Site Plan
Appendix C  Community Demographics Data

Census Block Groups Used
371830541.041, 371830541.102, 371830540.141, 371830540.151

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<tr>
<th>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</th>
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<td>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</td>
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**AGE RANGE**
- Age 0-6: 15%
- Age 7-13: 13%
- Age 14-18: 11%
- Age 19-35: 22%
- Age 36-54: 32%
- Age 55+: 7%

**GENDER**
- Males: 53%
- Females: 47%
River Bend Park Master Plan: Situation Assessment

**RACE**

- 2015 White Population (Esri) 47%
- 2015 Black/African American Population (Esri) 37%
- 2015 American Indian/Alaska Native Population (Esri) 8%
- 2015 Asian Population (Esri) 0%
- 2015 Pacific Islander Population (Esri) 3%
- 2015 Other Race Population (Esri) 1%
- 2015 Population of Two or More Races (Esri) 8%

**HISPANIC POPULATION**

- 2015 Hispanic Population (Esri) 13%
- 2015 Non-Hispanic Population (Esri) 87%
Area Demographics – 5401 North (27616 Zip Code)

Data provided by Engquist – Level Development, LLC

Raleigh Homebuyers Research - Demographic Breakdown of Adults 18+ in the Raleigh Durham area who plan to buy new construction in the next 12 months

- 56% are between 18-34 (Millennials)
- 28% have Household Income of $75k+
- 58% male
- 41% female
- 38% own
- 61% rent
- 53% married
- 65% have kids less than 17 years old
- 61% own pet

- Activities they enjoy:
  - 54% swimming
  - 18% basketball
  - 11% hiking
  - 50% jogging/running
  - 18% biking
  - 49% gardening
  - 54% lawn care
27616 Area Research

Age Distribution for 27616

Marital Status for 27616 Residents

Household Income for 27616

Target Market – 5401 North
Data provided by Engquist – Level Development, LLC

Baby Boomers: Born between 1946-1964
Generation X: Born between 1965-1977
Millennial: Born between 1978-1987

**Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND)**

**Consumer Psychographics – 5401 North**

Data provided by Engquist – Level Development, LLC

- **60/20/20 Rule**: 20% will never buy; 20% “on the fence” & 60% will!
- **General Traits of the TND Consumer**
  - Enjoys low maintenance/yard work
  - Busy/family lifestyle
  - Neighborly and social - needs to be involved
  - Will accept smaller lot if area amenities supplement
- **Needs of the TND Consumer**: Active environment; open green space; amenities
- **TNDs are proven to be safer places to live and improve health**

**Appendix D Stakeholder Interviewee List**

1. Developer Representative (5401 North, LLC) – Tony Tate
2. Developer Representative (5401 North, LLC) – Ric Rojas
3. Wake County School System (WCPSS) Representative – Sheri Green
4. WCPSS River Bend Elementary School Representative – Ken Jorgensen
5. Forestville Citizens Advisory Council Representative – Latika Vick
6. Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Representative – Mike Surasky
7. Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Representative – Patrick Buffkin
8. Wake Technical Community College: Northern Wake Campus Representative – Dr. Samuel Strickland
9. City of Raleigh Public Utilities Division Representative – T.J. Lynch

10. City of Raleigh Police Department Northeast District Representative – Lt. Rob Bailey

11. Greenway Representative – Chelsea Jones
Appendix E  Stakeholder Interview Questions

Name: _______________________________________________________________

Organization Represented: ______________________________________________

1. What is your role of your organization in the community?

2. What is your understanding and anticipation of the current and future demographics in the surrounding area?

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

4. 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.)

5. 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, post cards, social media, etc)

6. What role do you see this park playing in this community?

7. Are there other key individuals or organizations we should engage in this park master plan process?

8. Please provide any other comments or ideas that you have for the River Bend Park Master Plan.

9. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is soliciting volunteers to serve on a Citizens Planning Committee (CPC) to lead in the development of the River Bend Park Master Plan. The committee will be appointed by the Raleigh City Council as early as August 2015. Are you interested in serving on this committee or can you identify any individuals you believe should be considered for this committee?
Appendix F  Community Input Survey

Foreword

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department invites you to provide community input on the planned River Bend Park Master Plan. The park is located at 6580 Perry Creek Road north of the intersection of Louisburg Road and I-540 in North Raleigh. This 24.9 acre vacant property is within a proposed development of residential and mixed-use located south of the Northern Campus of Wake Tech Community College. The Neuse Greenway Trail is adjacent to the park site on the east side with the future River Bend Middle School adjacent to the west. The following survey is intended to collect information about the surrounding community, gather ideas on potential park elements and assess the surrounding community needs.

Your thoughts regarding the master plan for River Bend Park are very important in our effort to ensure the long range vision for the park, amenities and facilities meets the needs of the community. This survey is an opportunity for you to provide general thoughts regarding the park and its facilities. The input received will be used in future public meeting discussions, and help form the foundation for our planning efforts.

Household Park Usage and Amenity Preferences

1. What City of Raleigh Parks do you visit with your family?

2. How often do you visit City of Raleigh Parks?
   - [ ] Less than 2 times/month
   - [ ] 2 – 3 times/month
   - [ ] 1 – 2 times/week
   - [ ] 3 or more times/week

3. Which Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources activities do you and your household have a need for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fitness and Wellness</th>
<th>History and Museums</th>
<th>Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatics</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Senior Adult</td>
<td>Lake-related Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Recreation</td>
<td>Volunteer Opportunities</td>
<td>Youth Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>Youth Summer Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Adventure Recreation</td>
<td>Youth (K-5th grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen (6th – 12th grade)</td>
<td>Before/After School Care</td>
<td>Adult Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>Track Out</td>
<td>English as 2nd Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: __________________________________________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Which types of amenities would you and your household members be most likely to use at the River Bend Park? Please select your top three (3):

Walkway / Trails   Restrooms   Greenway Access/Connection
Walking / Running Track   Fitness Stations   Picnic Areas / Shelters
Volleyball Courts   Playgrounds   Canoeing/Kayaking Access
Recreation Centers   Community Gardens   Soccer / Football / Lacrosse Field
Dog Parks   Tennis / Pickle Ball Courts   Basketball Courts
Disc Golf Course   Cricket Field   Youth Baseball and Softball Field
Skate Park   Adult Baseball and Softball Field

Other: ________________________________________________________________________________

5. How would you/your family get to River Bend Park?

□ Vehicle
□ Bike
□ Walk
□ Public Transportation

6. If you selected Bike or Walk, would you enter the park from the north, south, east or west?

□ North
□ South
□ East
□ West

7. What experiences should be provided at River Bend Park? Please select your top three (3):

□ Sitting outside (e.g., reading, contemplating)
□ Going to a playground
□ Unstructured play (e.g., playing catch)
□ Walking or riding a bike in a park or on a greenway trail
□ Playing pick-up sports on a court or field
□ Enjoying the outdoors (e.g., observing nature and wildlife)
□ Fitness activities (e.g., running, exercise meet-ups)
□ Aquatic recreation (e.g., swimming, sprayground)
□ River-related activities (e.g., paddling, fishing)
□ Cultural opportunities (e.g., public art, special events)

8. What individuals, groups, or organizations do you think should be engaged in the River Bend Park planning process?

9. Please provide any other comments or ideas that you have for the future of River Bend Park.

**Household Information**

10. Are you a City of Raleigh resident?

□ Yes
□ No

11. What neighborhood do you live in? (if applicable)

12. How long have you lived at your current address?

□ Less than a year
□ 1 – 3 years
□ 4 – 6 years
□ 7+ years

13. What is your home ZIP code? __________

14. What is your age?

□ Under 23
□ 23-40
□ 41-59
□ 60 or Older

15. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry?

□ Yes
□ No
16. Which of the following best describes your race?
   - □ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - □ Asian/Pacific Islander
   - □ African American/Black
   - □ Multi-racial
   - □ White
   - □ Other: ________________
   - □ Prefer not to disclose

17. What age groups in your household would participate in activities, programs, or services offered at River Bend Park?
   - □ 0-6 years
   - □ 7-13 years
   - □ 14-18 years
   - □ 19-35 years
   - □ 36-54 years
   - □ 55+ years

Opportunities for Further Participation
The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department is soliciting volunteers to serve on a Citizen Planning Committee for the development of the River Bend Park Master Plan. The Department is looking for stakeholders who represent the broad interests of the community.

18. Are you interested in serving on this committee? If yes, please continue to answer the following questions. If no, please stop here.
   - □ Yes
   - □ No

The seven questions that followed consisted of the Citizens Planning Committee Interview Questions (see Appendix H).
Appendix G  Community Survey Results

The Community Survey questions were designed to collect information from respondents on current park usage and tendencies, future park amenities, preferred park activities/experiences, household demographics and gauge interest in volunteering for the CPC. The survey’s format ranged from multiple choice questions to short answer questions.

Q #1. What City of Raleigh Parks do you visit with your family?
   • 33 City of Raleigh Parks were listed
   • Top seven listed by rank
     • Buffaloe Rd Athletic Park - 47
     • Durant Nature Preserve - 25
     • Pullen Park - 24
     • Millbrook Exchange Park - 24
     • Spring Forest Rd Park - 15
     • Marsh Creek Park - 13
     • Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve – 11

Q #2. How often do you visit City of Raleigh Parks?
Q #3. Which Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources activities do you and your household have a need for?
Q #4. Which types of amenities would you or your household members most likely to use at the River Bend Park? Please select your top three.
Q #5. How would you/your family get to River Bend Park?
• Vehicle – 74%
• Bike – 15%
• Walk – 11% (Over half would enter from the North)

Q #6. If you selected Bike or Walk, would you enter the park from the north, south, east or west?
• Over half would enter from the North

Q #7. What experiences should be provided at River Bend Park? Please select your top three.

Q #8. What individuals, groups, or organizations do you think should be engaged in the River Bend Park planning process?
• Nearby neighborhood HOA's
• Kayak/canoe clubs
• CAC's
• Cycling and running clubs
• Youth
• Nearby Schools
• Retirees/Senior Adults
• Dog people
Q #9. Please provide any comments or ideas you have for the future of River Bend Park.
- Providing a river-related amenity such as kayak/canoe access would really make a name for this park.
- Restrooms and picnic shelters in the park would provide a destination or turnaround for greenway users.
- Need more dog parks.
- Provide safe and convenient access from the neighborhoods on the east side of the river to the Neuse River Greenway and park.
- Nice to see a spray ground and/or playground.
- A need for basketball and tennis courts in the area.
- Easy access for walkers and bikers.
- Thank you for this park, the more the merrier.

Q #10. Are you a City of Raleigh resident?
- Yes – 90% (85 out of 94 respondents)

Q #11. What neighborhood do you live in? (if applicable)
- Forty-one neighborhoods were represented in the survey
- Majority from Winchester (9), McKinley Woods (7), Willow Lake (5), North College Park (4) and Forestville (4) neighborhoods

Q #12. How long have you lived at your current address?
- 7+ years – 54%
- 4-6 years – 20%
- 1-3 years – 20%

Q #13. What is your home Zip Code?
- Responses from nine different zip codes
- 63 respondents from 27616 (River Bend Park’s zip code)

Q #14. What is your age?
- 41 – 59 years old – 47%
- 23 – 40 years old – 37%
- 60 or older – 15%
- Under 23 – 1%

Q #15. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ancestry?
- No – 92%
- Yes – 8%
Q #16. Which of the following best describes your race?
- Caucasian/White – 77%
- Prefer not to disclose – 11%
- African American/Black – 7%
- Asian/Pacific Islander – 2%
- Other – 2%
- Multi-racial – 1%

Q #17. What are the age groups in your household that would participate in activities, programs, or services offered at River Bend Park?
Appendix H  Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) Interview Questions

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board is soliciting volunteers to serve on a Planning Committee for River Bend Park Master Plan. The following information will assist in forming a committee that represents the potential users of this park facility. Appointment to this Committee involves a commitment to attend regular meetings through the end of the committee process. (Please print legibly)

Name __________________________________________

Street ___________________________________________ City________________

Zip ____________ Are you a Raleigh Citizen? _____ Age? [ ] under 23 [ ] 23-40 [ ] over 40

(Check [✓ ] below for best method to contact you.)

Telephone (home) [ ] ________________________ (work) [ ] ________________________

E-mail address [ ] _________________________________________________________

1. Do you or your family participate in activities or programs offered by the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department or with other groups that use Raleigh Parks? If so, how do you participate?

2. In what other ways do you or your family use the City of Raleigh parks and greenways?

3. What other activities do you or your family participate in?

4. Why do you want to serve on the Planning Committee?

5. Describe your household, such as number and ages of children or parents living with you, how long you have lived in Raleigh or Wake County, etc.

6. Do you have special knowledge or experience in park/site planning or recreation programming, or special skills, interests or background that you feel would help the Committee? If so, please describe....
7. It is expected the Planning Committee will meet generally once a month through the first six months once the committee portion of the project begins. After that, meetings may be by special arrangement or will match other standing meeting dates. What night of the week, day of the month, are you NOT AVAILABLE for regularly scheduled meetings? (We will suggest the schedule for subsequent meetings, based on the time most selected candidates are available.)

Other comments or suggestions?
Appendix I  Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board

9/17/5 Meeting Minutes Excerpt

PARKS, RECREATION & GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

MINUTES

The Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) met on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Method Road Community Center in the Pioneer Building, 514 Method Road, Raleigh, NC with the following present:

Kimberly Wicker, presiding
Richard Bostic
Patrick Buffkin
Jay Chaudhuri
Christopher Dillon
Dexter Hebert
Steve Hepler
Rodger Koopman
Clodagh Lyons-Bastian
David Millsaps
Amy Simes
Mike Surasky

Excused: Jennifer Hoverstad
Shane Mellin
Thomas Moore

Staff Present: Scott Payne, Cindy Trumbower, Giavonia Harris, Ken Hisler, Wayne Schindler, Thomas McCourt, Val Brown, Ashley Deans, Eliza Kiser, James Marapoti, Shawsheen Baker, Belva Parker, Debra Bradsher, Laura Kordulewski

Chairperson Wicker called the meeting to order at 6:03pm with discussion and action taken as follows:

RIVER BEND PARK DRAFT SITUATION ASSESSMENT – PRESENTATION RECEIVED

Shawsheen Baker, Senior Parks Planner indicated this park was purchased from a developer a few years ago and the developer since has provided funding for this master plan. She introduced Bill Hamilton, PLA of the consultant team from CLH Design, P.A. There is an adjacent middle school next to the park and they are the consultant for that project also so they are very familiar with that corner of the city.
Mr. Hamilton indicated the situation assessment is the initial phase of the project and the collection of data from the community, analyzing the information, stakeholder interviews and a recommendation of the CPC members. He reviewed the project and the site location. The project is a 25 acre site located in the northeast interchange of 540 and 401 in North Raleigh. Wake Tech campus and River Bend Elementary School is north of the project. The Neuse River is on the east corridor and the Neuse River Greenway is also along the eastern line of the project.

Project Overview

- Site Context
- Neuse River
- Neuse River Greenway
- Community Framework
- Planned Development
  - 5401 North
  - River Bend MS
  - Wake Tech
- Demographics

Mr. Hamilton indicated within the framework of the project there are six developed PRCR park system elements: Horseshoe Farms Nature Preserves in the north, Buffaloe Road Athletic Park in the south and they are all connected by the Neuse River and the Neuse River Greenway. This area was perceived as being part of the future 5401 neighborhood; this is not being built for the established neighborhood. The area is a 400 acres plan, residential and mixed used development with over 2,200 developments. There is no direct vehicular access into the park. Fifteen percent of 5401 north is planned to be open space and within that planned open space and park space there is 2.5 miles of bike and walking trails, pocket parks, essential amenities, there is connections to the greenway, 15 acre community garden and a dog park. There are few existing neighborhoods to get data from. They had to look at future market studies to meet the future needs.

Community Outreach, Engagement, & Participation

- Project Website
- Social Media Outreach
- Forestville CAC Meeting
- Stakeholder Interviews – 11 participated
- Community Input Survey – 91 respondents from 41 neighborhoods and the majority were individuals surrounding the park area.
- CPC Interviews – online email and face to face communication

Stakeholder Concerns and Recommendations

The key community concerns and recommendations identified from the stakeholder interviews and the community survey include:

- Gathering Space
- Multi-purpose Recreational Area
- Functional Play Park (typical play area)
Citizens Planning Committee Recommendations

During the situation assessment they identified 16 interested community representatives who would be interested in serving on the Citizen Planning Committee for this project.

Mr. Hamilton stated the next steps would be for him to finalize the project schedule and the project team will be meeting with the CPC to begin developing a vision plan to address some of the concerns and recommendations that were brought forwards.

Ms. Baker indicated the next steps for the PRGAB is to make comments regarding the CPC members and then present the recommendation to City Council for adoption and with the adoption the steering committee can move forward.

Mr. Bostic asked if there were any names left off of the list that wanted to serve or were these all of the people that wanted to be on the committee.

Mr. Hamilton explained there were some that expressed interest in being on the committee and they were reached out to by phone and/or email but did not respond or they decline for personal reasons. Mr. Bostic asked if there was a cap on the number of people on the committee. Mr. Hamilton indicated they thought this was a good number to get hoping that 12 out of the 16 will show up to the meetings.

Mr. Millsaps indicated the park seems more of like a theoretical park and we do not have a lot of information about how it will be used like we are inventing it. Mr. Hamilton explained that is the difficulty of all of the development happening there with 5401. The challenge of the CPC is addressing the needs of the changing times and the needs of everyone.

Mr. Koopman asked does the area have to be developed now. Ms. Baker indicated the developer payed for the master plan and in the bond we have $1.25 million for the phase 1 development of the project.

Ms. Baker indicated River Bend Elementary is complete and the middle school is under construction and due for completion and opening next fall so there will be a lot of activity in that area.

Mr. Payne indicated there is a unique piece to this in that there are other open spaces that are being developed and how this open space will fit.

Mr. Surasky stated because this park does not have the best access this park is going to need something very unique and special for people to come to it.

Mr. Bostic moved approval of the River Bend Draft Situation Assessment and Citizen Planning Committee Members and referral of this item to the City Council for action on October 7, 2015. His motion was seconded by Mr. Hepler, unanimously passed. Chairperson Wicker ruled the motion adopted.
BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RIVER BEND PARK DRAFT SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – REFERRAL TO CITY COUNCIL – APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Giavonia M. Harris
Appendix J City of Raleigh City Council – 10/7/15 Meeting Minutes Excerpt

COUNCIL MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Raleigh met in a regular session at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 in the City Council Chamber, Room 201 of the Raleigh Municipal Building, Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, with the following present.

Mayor Nancy McFarlane, Presiding
Mayor Pro Tem John Odom
Councilor Mary-Ann Baldwin (arrived late)
Councilor Kay C. Crowder
Councilor Bonner Gaylord
Councilor Wayne K. Maiorano (absent & excused)
Councilor Russ Stephenson
Councilor Eugene Weeks

Mayor McFarlane called the meeting to order and invocation was rendered by Vernon Matzen, First Church of Christ, Scientist. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Stephenson. Mayor McFarlane reported that Mr. Maiorano is absent and will be excused from the meeting. Ms. Baldwin is on her way.

The following items were discussed with action taken as shown.

MS. BALDWIN ARRIVED AT THE MEETING AT 1:40 P.M.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

RIVER BEND PARK SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE – APPROVED

The Situation Assessment and suggested appointees to serve on the Citizen Planning Committee will be presented.

The Situation Assessment documents community issues and demographic considerations for master planning the park site. The 2014 Park Bond included $2 million for master plan development and phase one construction. It also identifies individuals to represent the community on the Citizen Planning Committee. The consultants and staff will provide a brief presentation and be available to answer questions. A copy of the draft Situational Assessment was included in the agenda packet.

Recommendation: Approve the River Bend Park Master Plan Situation Assessment and appointments to Citizen Planning Committee.

Lora Greco, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, presented the information on the situation assessment. She pointed out this park used to be known as Perry Creek Park. She briefly explained the park which contains some 25 acres, a part of the 5401 development, explained the location, the proximity to Horseshoe Farms and Buffalo Road Parks, pointed out there are very few established neighborhoods.
The closest is on the opposite side of the river with no access to this park at this time. She talked about the planned, 5401 development, demographics, proposed demographics, proximity to River Bend School, the fact that there are few established neighborhoods nearby, talked about the typical process, etc. One of the critical components of the next step is to understand the current demographics, the area market profile, etc. She talked about community engagement including the Forestville CAC, community concerns and presented the following 16 names who are recommended for the citizens committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Group Represented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bjornstad</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Buffkin</td>
<td>Park, Recreation &amp; Greenway Advisory Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Dixon</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John French</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayle Gayton</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Godwin</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stenisha Green</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Hicks</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Jones</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen/Greenway Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christy Miller</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ric Rojas</td>
<td>5401 North Development/Level Homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Strickland</td>
<td>Wake Tech Northern Wake Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Surasky</td>
<td>Parks, Recreation &amp; Greenway Advisory Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Tate</td>
<td>5401 North Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latika Vick</td>
<td>Forestville Citizens Advisory Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille Warren</td>
<td>Raleigh Citizen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

She talked about the next steps, and which calls for a presentation of the master plan in the fall of 2016. She introduced Bill Hamilton, CLH Design representing the consultant.

Mayor McFarlane questioned what is meant by a functional play park and if the City is working with Wake County Public School system pointing out it look like we could be duplicating the play area at the adjacent elementary school site. Mr. Hamilton pointed out all of the comments thus far are very early in the process. The future middle school may have some of the facilities recommended and we could make use of those facilities which would allow for better use of the park itself. Ms. Greco pointed out the City has been communicating with Wake County Public Schools very closely and they will continue to work with them through joint use agreements, etc. No one wants to duplicate the facilities. In response to questioning from the Mayor, Ms. Greco pointed out there had been no public process at the point in time the maps/plans were developed. The maps just basically show what use could be made of the property but nothing is dictating the design of the property at this point.
Mayor McFarlane pointed out since there is no one to use the park at this time she would question if we are getting ahead of ourselves. It was pointed out the school is being built now. Stephen Bentley, Parks and Recreation Cultural Resources, pointed out the City will work with the developers and look at the type of housing and the proposed demographics. The plans will be developed over the next year with the neighborhoods which are being branded to attract certain demographics. Ms. Crowder questioned if the developers are assisting with this project with Mr. Bentley pointing out they are paying for the master plan. Mr. Odom stated he feels everything will come together in the end. Mr. Bentley talked about the work with the developer, school system, proposed demographics, desire for a walkable community, etc.

Mr. Weeks asked about the community survey and listed in this situation assessment and asked the rank of Chavis Park. Mr. Hamilton pointed out the did not know if Chavis was one of the parks on which people commented pointing out most of the respondents were from the 27616 zip code. He stated there were comments about the need for an aquatic center pointing out that is probably why Pullen Park was listed. Mr. Weeks questioned the number of African Americans on the Citizens Planning Commission with Mr. Hamilton indicating he could not give the exact number, pointing out some people did not disclose their race on their application. Ms. Greco pointed out she would provide that information after the first meeting. Mr. Odom moved approval of the situation assessments and the appointment of the Citizen Planning Committee. His motion was seconded by Ms. Baldwin and put to a vote which resulted in all members voting in the affirmative except Mr. Maiorano who was absent and excused. The Mayor ruled the motion adopted on a 7-0 vote.

RECESS

There being no further business, Mayor McFarlane announced the meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m. to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Gail G. Smith
City Clerk
jt/CC10-07-15

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mayor McFarlane announced the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Gail G. Smith
City Clerk
jt/CC10-07-15
References:

City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (2012, Updated 2014). Public Participation Guidelines for Park Planning. Obtained from http://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/PRecDesignDevelop/Articles/ParkandGreenwayPlanningandDevelopmentWhoWeAre.html

City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (2012, Updated 2014). Public Participation Policy for Park Planning. Obtained from http://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/PRecDesignDevelop/Articles/ParkandGreenwayPlanningandDevelopmentWhoWeAre.html

City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (2012, Updated 2014). Public Participation Manual for Park Planning. Obtained from http://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/PRecDesignDevelop/Articles/ParkandGreenwayPlanningandDevelopmentWhoWeAre.html

System Integration Plan – Perry Creek Road Property (2015). Obtained from http://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Projects/PerryCreekRd.html


5401 North, Raleigh North Carolina Planned Development District Amendment (June 2010, Revised August, November & December 2010 with Planning Commission Approval March 2011)

5401 North – A Community Vision prepared for Engquist Level Development

City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources (2014) System Plan (your parks, your future)