

# TOWN of CARY

## 2011/2012 Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Master Plan

### Citizen E-mail Requests

September 28, 2011

As part of the public process of the Master Plan, a specific e-mail address was created ([parksplan@townofcary.org](mailto:parksplan@townofcary.org)) to provide citizens with the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with the Town regarding the development of Cary's future parks system. Aside from the focus group meetings, public meetings and mail-in survey, citizens wishing to provide additional input could do so by e-mailing. Between June and September 2011, approximately 120 e-mails were received regarding the Master Plan. These were grouped in the following areas: Parks and Open Space (20), Greenways (12), Facilities (81), and Downtown (3). The majority of the e-mails for new facilities were for a farmers market (64). Below is a summary of e-mails received to date:

#### **Parks and Open Space**

- More nature preserves and nature trails (no bikes, unpaved, loops).
- Request for parkland in west Cary between Cary Park PDD and Mills Park schools. Referenced the initial plan as a potential site for an aquatics facility and the subsequent talk of a space and facility similar to Bond Park and BPCC in that area.
- Request for a park at Cameron Pond. (x2)
- Request for park at Twins Lake area along Lake Grove. (x2)
- Request for a balance services with more emphasis for western Cary residents.
- Request for wooded nature area at future Morris Branch Park. Recommends against constructing playing fields. Instead, envision a shady, wooded park with walking trails, either a natural playground or regular playground with swings/sand/playground equipment shaded by trees. The wooded area would be a retreat from the surrounding clear-cut neighborhoods that lack vegetation.
- Request for community gardens in Cary's downtown.
- Request for a veranda at the Boat House located at Bond Park. It was felt that it is under-used because there are limited views of the lake.
- Request for Town investment at Turner Creek Elementary School. Outdoor field at school needs improvement. The ground is extremely hard and rocky. The soil in the area renders the field/play area useless for many days after rain or other weather events.
- Request to increase the amount of shading at existing play areas.
- Request to increase stormwater retrofit/restoration opportunities and partnerships. / Partnerships (x2)
- Request for use of "low impact development" techniques in park construction.
- Explore ways to protect remaining productive farm and forest land.
- Request to establish wildlife habitat corridors (esp. along White Oak Creek).
- Request to improve water quality (Jordan Lake watershed and drinking water supply).
- Request to see priority for protection of the White Oak Creek, Swift Creek, and the American Tobacco Trail corridors, National Register Historic Districts (Green Level, Carpenter).
- Request to complete a plan for the watershed restoration of the Black Creek plan ( cites 8/11/2011 Black Creek Memo).

## Greenways

- Create a “Community Walk Map” using Google Maps (similar to Raleigh or Durham) which allows citizens to rate intersections and pedestrian accommodations on roads and/or comment on the proposed greenway maps.
- Recommend bike lanes on both side of Winfair including an improved sidewalk and a pedestrian cross walk with a refuge island at Winfair and Evans. Also recommend a greenway that goes along the stream behind the Windbyrne Townhomes.
- E-mail referencing Cary’s ranking as #24 by Bicycling Magazine.
- Recommend completion of the White Oak Greenway to the Tobacco Trail and creating a connection across/under Davis Drive to complete the connection to Bond Park. (x2)
- The existing segments of the White Oak Greenway (between Davis Drive and NC 55) are in need of some TLC in its older section. There are missing garbage cans (Jenks-Carpenter) and the trail west of the NC 55 pedestrian tunnel does not drain well. There is mud and standing water along portions of the trail.
- Extend the NC 55 multi-use path north of High House Road to link with the NC 55 pedestrian underpass and Batchelor Branch Greenway.
- McCrimmon at the Park: This is a community with lots of families with young kids. Quite a few greenways east of Davis Drive (Morrisville - Town Hall Drive), but none close to McCrimmon at the Park. In addition, with new homes being constructed at the intersection of McCrimmon and Louis Stephens Dr, a greenway at this location would also be welcomed by the residents. Lastly, a greenway or sidewalk which can connect the Western Wake Library from our subdivision would also be great! There is not sidewalk from our community to Morrisville Carpenter Rd. Enjoy biking/walking on the greenways.

## Facilities

- Tennis - Recommend construction of an Indoor Tennis Courts facility. (x7 e-mails)
  - Live in Greenville and commute three to four days a week to the Cary Tennis Park. I hope that the Town will see the need to move forward with indoor court plans as soon as possible in order to continue to make the Cary Tennis Park the best choice for junior training in the state.
  - The indoor courts would allow year round play in inclement weather and offer year round options for tournament play→ Opportunity for Econ. Impact in Cary if more built.
  - The closest indoor courts are North Raleigh, and there is a huge need in Western Wake for such a facility. People would definitely pay for the opportunity to play indoors.
  - Cary Tennis Park is a very, very busy place and to have another location would be amazing. It would also help in scheduling matches affected by weather.
  - Request construction of clay courts. Clay courts are particularly wonderful for the growing senior population of players (easier on joints than the hard courts).
- Farmers Market – Request development of a farmers market at the AM Howard Farm site in the Carpenter area. (x68 e-mails)
- I wish to express my support of a permanent downtown Cary Farmers' Market! (x5)
- Aquatics – (x3)
  - There aren't many options for indoor swimming less than 20 minutes away. And as a Cary resident, there aren't any public options where I don't have to pay a non-resident fee (for example Morrisville's pool or Raleigh's pools). It's frustrating that out of Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, and Morrisville - Cary is the only one that doesn't have a city/town maintained pool.
  - Currently taking advantage of the Raleigh City Pool system, but it is quite simple in design. They have many, and Cary has none. In the city I lived prior to moving here, I was a member of the Upper Palmetto YMCA system in the Rock Hill/Fort Mill, SC area (enjoyed waterpark feel/accessible location). I mention

this in the hope that the Town of Cary would seriously consider a pool and investigate the one I mentioned.

- Request for improvements at the Cary Dog Park, including:
  - Add hand sanitizing stations
  - Install solar lights by the picnic bench cover
  - Increase screening and shade protection at park
  - Update water bowl system
  - Add Mulch
- Community Centers – Need a community center closer to South Cary. Hemlock Bluffs is not big enough to have any classes, event or sports. South Cary residents have to drive to either downtown or to North Cary for activities or classes.
- Public running track – Request access to running tracks at public high schools in Cary. Currently, the high school tracks are rarely open to the public.
- Badminton Courts – Recommend development of a stand-alone Olympic caliber dedicated badminton training and open play facility.
- Recreational Programs and Classes – Interested in the adult fitness programs and classes offered by the Town of Cary. Currently live in West Cary and most class locations are a bit far for me to travel on a regular basis. Has the Town considered offering some classes closer to west Cary? Think your biggest challenge is that we don't have a community center in this area. Does the Town plan on building one here?
- WakeMed Soccer Park – Greatest potential for hosting NCAA and other field events in Cary. Think that Men's and Women soccer, Field Hockey and M&F Lacrosse should be considered. Capacity at 25,000 should be close in. Why not host other league (than ACC) championships. We might even look for other entertainment events since we will have seating. Any thoughts of cover over seats?
- The only thing I would like to see change is to stop holding youth sports practices and games on Sundays. Sunday is a sacred day for our family and our religion and we hate having to miss out on games because they are held on this day.

### **Downtown**

- Recommend a park located across from Cary Arts Center.
- Recommend downtown that has collection of shops, places to eat and walkable.
- Requests the Town to look at underutilized public buildings such as Jordan Hall or the former Senior Center/Human Resources Office located behind the Cary Public Library off of Academy Street. The model upon which this concept is based is "The Scrap Exchange" in Durham, a nonprofit which has been in operation for 20 years. The partnership of a public/nonprofit has already been explored successfully in the creation of Kids Together Playground, which is now Marla Dorrel Park.
- As a Cary resident and thoughtful consumer, access to local foods is very important to me. I believe in supporting our state's / region's farmers and craftspeople in the efforts to bring (and keep) quality local foods, etc. to Cary. I believe that the Town of Cary has many opportunities to lead our state in encouraging citizens to be health and environmentally conscious, as well as to support agriculture in our region. A permanent location for our Farmer's Markets is just one of the many ways that our town can take the lead.