The park site is located on the southwest corner at the intersection of Walnut Street and Lawrence Road in Cary, North Carolina. The site is approximately 11 acres which is divided by a drainage way and a small wetland. The majority of the site lies to the East of the drainage way. The site is mostly wooded and exhibits gentle slopes.

Located on the site is an existing home on the corner of Walnut Street and Lawrence Road, which has been vacated. While there were discussions during community meetings to renovate the building, it was determined that the structure was not needed and thus will be removed.

There is an existing gravel area on the South-East portion of the site that has been used for additional parking by a local church.
Surrounding Land Use

The park is bordered to the North by Walnut Street and to the East by Lawrence Road. Walnut Street is proposed to be widened in the near future which will increase the road to six lanes with a median in the center. Lawrence Road will also become a collector street once it is widened, which will allow for three lanes at the intersection of Walnut Street. Both of these projects will have a limited impact on the park.

To the west and south are adjacent residential neighborhoods. The lots are medium in size (1-2 acres). There are nine lots which share a property line with the park site. Currently the residence at the southern tip is vacant, which would provide an excellent opportunity to increase the buffer with adjacent landowners. North of the site and across the street from Walnut Street are located two churches. Other land uses within a 1 mile radius of the site are commercial, including Crossroads Mall and Cary Town Center. The surrounding land uses influence the park development in several ways.

Specifically:
- Adjacent neighborhoods should be protected from noise and lights.
- Strong pedestrian and bicycle connections should be addressed from existing neighborhoods (sidewalks).
**Road Improvements**

Walnut Street is currently a 4 lane road with a 45 mph speed limit. Lawrence Road is currently a 2 lane paved road without curb and gutter. Walnut Street is going to become a 6 lane road with a center median. This widening will not be required for park development but a required 17' of Right of Way will be reserved. The widening of Lawrence Road is required for park development. This will include an additional lane and curb and gutter along the park property.

**Buffers**

There is a 50' required Neuse River Buffer, along with an additional 50' Town of Cary required buffer along each side of the existing drainage way. There will be a 20' required buffer along the adjacent land to the west of the park site. The buffer requires canopy trees every 30' on center (25% evergreen) and shrubs every 5-8' (75% of them evergreen). There are enough trees in that area to meet the requirements, however, there may be some additional shrubs. The existing trees to remain on site along Walnut Street and Lawrence Road will also provide some buffer to the park.
Vegetation

There are two distinct vegetative areas associated with the park site. Much of the site contains mature hardwoods, while to the Northeast portion of the site there are many pines. Throughout the site are some large holly trees, and very little undergrowth except the area immediately adjacent to the drainage way. It is the intent of the plan to retain as much of the existing tree cover as possible. There are no rare and endangered plants known to be present on the park property.

Wetlands

There has been an investigation to identify jurisdictional wetlands on the property. A small wetland area is located along the existing drainage way and is within the Neuse River Buffer. Wetlands will be protected.
Soils

There are a variety of soil types which are found within the park. There are four soil types found on the site. The CeB2 are found to the Northwest and Northeast portions of the site. The CeB are found towards the center of the park site and cover a majority of the site. The ApB2 are found at higher points of the site and are more suited to development, their depth to the bedrock is greater. The CgB2 is found to the Southwest portion of the site.

Soils Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Slopes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CeB</td>
<td>Cecil Sandy Loam</td>
<td>2-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CeC2</td>
<td>Cecil Sandy Loam</td>
<td>6-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ApB2</td>
<td>Appling Sandy Loam</td>
<td>2-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CgB2</td>
<td>Cecil Gravelly Sandy Loam</td>
<td>2-6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soils Legend

- Wetlands
- 50' Neuse Buffer
- Additional 50' Buffer
- CeB
- CeC2
- ApB2
- CgB2
Slopes

The slopes on the proposed park site range from under 5% to greater than 10%. The majority of the site contains slopes between 5-10%. Along the stream there is a more significant slope, while to the East along Lawrence Road, the slopes are under 5%. There are two high points on the site, located to the Northwest corner and the East side of the site. The low point is located to the Southwest.
The process of preparing a master plan for Walnut Street Park included extensive community involvement. Public community hearings were held and the design team worked with a citizen advisory committee throughout the process.

**Citizen Design Committee**
The Citizens Design Committee was created as a voice for the neighborhoods around the site. Their goal was to meet with the design team, and then relay the information to their specific neighborhoods. The committee was created at the first public meeting where neighbors were asked to volunteer for the committee. The goal was to find someone from each neighborhood within a mile radius to form the committee.

The Citizen Design Committee consists of 16 members who met between each phase of the master planning process. The first meeting was held on April 26th and involved an initial site visit along with a review of the first public meeting site analysis discussion. The meeting also involved a discussion regarding the park program. At the second meeting, May 17th, 3 concept plans were presented. The committee was then asked to discuss the concepts with their neighbors and provide the design team feedback for a final concept plan.

**Public Involvement**
Along with the committee, the general public was an integral part of the planning process. Through meetings/presentations, the discussions shaped the ideas presented in the master plan. The design team met twice with the public. The first meeting was held on March 29, to present site analysis information. There were approximately 120 people from the community there. The second meeting was held on June 14 to present these alternative concept designs and the final draft concept. There were approximately 70 people from the community there. Each meeting provided an opportunity for the public to present comments on the plans.
The Town of Cary's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Facilities Master Plan, defines various types of parks depending on size, and service area, and identifies typical facilities. The Walnut Street Park is defined as a neighborhood park. A neighborhood park is defined as a park that is within a 1 mile radius of the community it will serve. A neighborhood park is approximately 10-20 acres in size.

Typical Facilities associated with a neighborhood park include:

- Playground
- Basketball Court
- Paved or unpaved walking trails
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Free play areas
- Multi-purpose court
- Soccer Field
- Buffer or undeveloped lands to remain natural

Through discussions with the Town, various facilities from this list were identified for the Walnut Street Park Master Plan, along with others. These included:

- Restroom Facilities
- Small Picnic Shelters
- Basketball court
- Playground
- Trails
- Free play
- Natural areas

Community Input

During various meetings, community members and staff discussed issues and developed ideas for the park. These included the following:

- Large open space for multi purpose events
- Picnic areas
- Dog run area
- Fitness Stations
- Paved trails around the site with markers to indicate distance
- Variety of programs for all age groups
- Preservation of existing natural features
- Basketball Court
- Water Feature
- Erosion control methods to reduce the runoff on site