Open Space Plan & Greenways and Trails Master Plan

Presented by

Jill Carter
Open Space Bond Project Manager

Thomas Gull
Principal Parks Planner
Presentation Agenda

1. Background

2. Combined Recreation, Greenways/Trails and Open Space Planning Process: Why & How?

3. Estimated Costs & Timing

4. Questions & Comments
Residents shared that they want more Open Space via the Comp Plan.

$200K included in the FY24 budget for Recreation Master Plan to look at park facilities, fields, recreational programming, etc.

$100K originally slated to be requested in FY25 budget for Greenways & Trails Master Plan update.
Discussion

- Use Open Space bond funds to add Greenways and Trails Plan and Open Space Plan to the Recreation Master Plan process to create a combined plan package for all recreation activities. Benefits include:
  - Document package that shows how all assets are connected
  - Further clarity on types of Greenways/Trails and Open Space needed and preferred location
  - Provides a clear strategy for achieving desired Greenways/Trails and Open Space Funding plan
    - Maintenance plan
    - Tracking system – measurable goals for the protection of Open Space
  - Can help with securing grants and other state/federal funding
    - Required for PARTF points

The Systemwide Parks & Recreation Master Plan

- Needs and Priorities Assessment
- Long-Range Vision & Strategic Plan

These Open Space, Greenways and Trails Plans can be added as an additional scope to the existing Master Plan contract with Kimley-Horn.
Proposed Scope

I. Needs and Priorities Assessment
1. Project Kickoff
2. Guiding Document and Data Review
3. Demographic Analysis
4. Parks, Facilities, Open Space, and Greenway Evaluation and Inventory
5. Policy and Procedure Overview and Analysis
6. Recreation Programs Assessment and Analysis
7. Public Engagement Meetings & Website
8. Statistically Valid and Online Surveys
9. Needs and Priorities Assessment Survey

II. Long-Range Vision and Strategic Plan
1. Visioning Workshop
2. Order of Magnitude Estimate of Probable Construction Costs
3. Implementation Strategies and Policies Workshop
4. Strategic Plan
5. Draft Master Plan
6. Master Plan Open House
7. Board of Commissioners Presentation
8. Final Report and Website Materials
Estimated Costs & Timing

Based on the scope and timing agreed upon with the consulting firm, the cost of adding Greenways/Trails and Open Space is scoped at:

$109,675

The estimated completion date for the combined process for the Systemwide Parks & Recreation Plan, Greenways/Trails Plan and Open Space Plan:

October 2024 (FY25)
Cost Savings

By incorporating the Greenways & Trails and Open Space Plans into the Parks and Recreation planning process, Buncombe County is estimated to save at least $45,000.

Other costs savings include:

- Reduction in staff hours required for public engagement and project administration (CAPE, Legal, Procurement, Finance, etc.)
- Reduction of escalation in land acquisition and capital project costs
Next Step
Request Board approval to use $109,675 in Open Space Bond funds for the addition of Greenways/Trails and Open Space Plans to the P&R Master Plan