

**MANDATORY REFERRAL-REPORT NO. MR02-12
WHITEHURST ROAD TRACT at IRWIN CREEK - Acquisition**

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND LOCATION: The proposal is to acquire vacant tract on Whitehurst Road off Clanton Road located within flood plain of Irwin Creek for inclusion in County Storm Water Services residential buy-out/water quality program/stream restoration program. The property is .752 acre (all of Tax #145-211-01). Ten other parcels along the northern side of Whitehurst Road have been purchased by Storm Water Services as part of a federal buy-out program, and houses have been removed. The subject parcel did not qualify under the original program because it is vacant.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION: Inclusion of this parcel will complete flood plain buy-out along southerly side of Irwin Creek on Whitehurst Road between Abelen Street and City-owned land (Irwin Creek Waste Water Plant). The objective of the buy-out program is to remove homes from the flood plain to halt continuing flood losses to property as well as danger to occupants. In addition to flood plain preservation, an off line constructed wetlands bench will be installed which will be funded by the NC Wetlands Restoration Program.

CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED LAND USE AND PUBLIC POLICY: This purchase is consistent with the Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan (1999) to acquire flood plain properties for open space, water quality enhancement and passive recreation use. (The County also owns flood plain land on the northern side of Irwin Creek.)

PROJECT IMPACT: This acquisition will close a gap in publicly owned land along the southerly side of Irwin Creek. There would be no negative impact from this acquisition. It will add to the public open space that stretches along Irwin Creek from the treatment plant to I-77 at West Boulevard, which is the largest public land assemblage near the central core of the City.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROJECTS: This project is consistent with the Greenway Master Plan and Storm Water Services water quality enhancement and protection policies.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: Purchase is funded. No building is contemplated.

JOINT USE TASK FORCE REVIEW COMMENTS: This matter was submitted to the Joint Use Task Force at their April 3, 2002 meeting, and no comments were received.

CMPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION: These lots are within the Central District Plan recommended to be used as greenway and open space. This acquisition is therefore consistent with the adopted plan and supported by staff.

CMPC PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Committee recommended approval by a 6-0 vote.

Mandatory Referral: MR02-12

