MANDATORY REFERRAL REPORT NO. 99-06 CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG PLANNING COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITION FOR REID PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE AND IRWIN CREEK GREENWAY

MARCH, 1999

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND LOCATION

The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department is proposing to acquire ±5.51 acres of primarily vacant land to complete the proposed neighborhood park site and to complete the greenway linkage along Irwin Creek in the Reid Park neighborhood. Land targeted for the park site is located primarily along Amay James Avenue and Morning Drive, while the land needed for the greenway is located off Reid Avenue. Please refer to Attachment A (List of Tax Parcels included in Project Proposal) and Attachment B (Tax Maps).

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Parks Master Plan (1989) and Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan (1981; revision underway-1999) support the need for neighborhood parks (15 to 25 acres) and pedestrian/bicycle linkage opportunities between parks, residential areas, schools, etc. The addition of the properties listed would improve the configuration of this neighborhood park site, complete localized linkage along Irwin Creek (tie the Reid Park neighborhood to Clanton Park) and create linkage from the Irwin Creek Greenway to the street system within the neighborhood.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS

This proposed land acquisition is needed to complete the proposed neighborhood park site and greenway linkage along Irwin Creek which is recommended in the November, 1991 Reid Park Small Area Plan and the July, 1995 Reid Park Neighborhood Action Plan. This project complements the land exchange between the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department and the Reid Park Community Development Corporation, which was approved by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Committee in March, 1997 (Mandatory Referral Report No. 97-07).

This proposed land acquisition would remove out parcels along edges of the neighborhood park site and gaps along the length of the park, and it would also provide pedestrian access from Reid Avenue at one location. The proposed greenway tracts would close gaps to create a continuous greenway between Clanton Road and the new single family housing area to be developed by the Reid Park Associates (made possible by the 1997 land exchange).

PROJECT IMPACT

This proposed land acquisition would reinforce the efforts of several departments, agencies and public/private groups to improve the quality of life in Reid Park by upgrading infrastructure, providing better housing opportunities, etc.

PROJECT COST

Independent appraisals on these proposed parcels are in progress. It should be noted that the land acquisition would be funded by the voter approved 1995 park bonds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff supports this land acquisition for the indicated park purposes.

PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Planning Committee voted 6-0 to approve this mandatory referral.





