

### Survey Question 7:

Please indicate your level of agreement on each of the following statements about open space and environmental issues in the plan area.

Answer Options	I strongly agree.	I generally agree.	I somewhat disagree.	I strongly disagree.	I'm not sure/Not applicable.
I am concerned about a decrease in the natural habitat/tree canopy.	125	59	15	3	6
I would like to see more greenways/walking trails.	122	61	8	1	15
The Little Sugar Creek Greenway should be connected to the Briar Creek Greenway.	94	66	10	1	33
Independence Park should be maintained as a passive park without any additional playgrounds, ballfields, courts, etc..	74	63	31	24	12
There is a need for more small neighborhood parks in Elizabeth.	51	80	49	9	14

**(Optional) Are there any specific open space or environmental issues you are concerned about in the plan area?**

**Please specify.**

- Randolph Rd. between Laurel and Caswell
- I love **tennis courts** if we were going to add anything to Independence Park. We need to do something with the empty lot on Randolph and Dotger. If not then at least clean it up and keep it looking nice.
- **DO NOT REMOVE ANY TREES!!!!!!**
- **Do not like Parking Lot in Independence Park.** Would love to return to greenspace or a playground amenity. **Would love the parking lot around Memorial Stadium to become greenspace.** More connectivity between Memorial Stadium and the rest of park. Would love more connectivity to Colonial Park. Many families use this as their playground. Needs traffic light/ped crossing across Randolph, somewhere between Laurel and Caswell.
- **Independence Park needs to remain as is** and be **better maintained**, I would love to see the **Charlotte Knights build a new ball park where Memorial Stadium is currently.** Grady Cole Center should be replaced and made part of CPCC, or part of the new Knights Baseball Park or both. Independence Park needs a new Large Water Fountain, I have ton's of idea's on that one too!
- **Mature tree canopy is most important.** We have **owl and hawk habitats** in the neighborhood currently which are being **threatened by slash development** processes. The pecan orchard for which Pecan Ave. was named, has only a few remaining trees. Can't we protect the mature, historic trees in the neighborhood during ALL future development? Smaller parks for the residents are important since Independence Park is used for large events on many weekends.
- I think there are **many adequate neighborhood parks in this area** and the new greenway being built at the old apt site. I think adding or maintaining these greenways will enhance the canopy, not detract from it. Independence park seems adequately developed but would not be harmed by further enhancements. Needs some parking similar to Latta Park area.
- **Independence park could be better utilized.** The parking lot is used almost exclusively by nursing students. There could be a **water feature** there **for kids** or something else more useful.

- Regarding Independence Park, **additional tennis courts would be useful**. Otherwise, I think the playground has enough playgrounds and kid-friendly attractions.
- It would be nice to have a **small dog park as part of Independence Park**
- There is an **empty lot for sale on the north side of Greenway** just west of Ridgeway. The **city should buy this and make it into a kids playground**. There is a CMS bus stop right there and this would be a wonderful spot for a playground. ELIZ kids would not have to cross Randolph or Caswell busy streets to get to a playground.
- **Safe connections to green spaces are critical** for Elizabeth. We have some nice natural amenities, but it can be difficult to get to them safely. I live on 8th Street between Laurel and Ridgeway -- that's fairly close to both Independence Park and Chantilly Park, but to get to either I have to deal with or cross Seventh Street. I don't feel entirely safe doing so. And I certainly wouldn't feel safe having my child try to get to either one alone. I would be interested in connecting 8th Street through to Chantilly if the pedestrian amenities were improved such that it could count as a greenway connection between Sugar Creek and Briar Creek.
- **poor condition of Independence park**, lack of planned planting. decreasing permeable surface.
- The outdoor dining options on 7th, especially at Pecan should be preserved and/or increased.
- Don't want a large plastic play structure in upper Independence park. Maybe some organic multi-age items. A **picnic shelter** would be great, but organically done.
- **Independence Park needs restrooms**.
- **Kudzu allowed to grow along the rr tracks**, its consuming some houses on the end of 8th street, and working its way over to 9<sup>th</sup> street and Clarice. Needs to be addressed, as it is killing beautiful large trees and ruining the bio diversity of these areas. Also, we need to be more aggressive street tree planters. There are many gaps in the canopy that we need to plant now. **Tree maintenance is also a problem**, some mature trees need some help, and they are not maintained by the city or the property owners and this problem only creates more problems.
- Not sure about the "passive park" question for Independence Park. I like that it has both passive areas and active areas. That said, **a few more active areas toward the Pecan/Caswell end of the park** that would be more convenient to the families who live on Greenway, 5th and Kenmore would probably be welcome. (For the record, I live toward the other end, on Louise...just looking out for my neighbors!)
- Again, as above, I think that the addition of trees does not conflict with the addition of a small play area in the park by kings college and the rose garden.
- Due to the topography of Elizabeth and adjacency to Briar Creek, I am concerned that **more development will make floods more problematic for areas of Elizabeth** and "downstream" neighborhoods. During the spring and summer rain storms, more neighbors experienced flooding that had never occurred before in their houses. The streets act as the storm water channels and they overflowed during the spring and summer rains this year. Additional development on higher elevations in Elizabeth must be looked at carefully as they impact all lower level elevations - in Elizabeth and surrounding neighborhoods.
- **We need police presence** please in these areas.
- Just clarification: Independence park is also used by Elizabeth Traditional. During school hours, it is **difficult for younger children to use the playground equipment**.
- I am concerned about the **automobile pollution**, the steady **loss of trees and cutting of existing trees** by Duke Power, **increase in paved parking areas and parking decks** impacting run off, the design of medical buildings which encourage car use for its visitors and an "in" and "out" design mentality,
- Not sure where the Briar Creek Greenway is, but it would be nice to **connect the neighborhood with the Little Sugar Creek Greenway** without having to take major streets- especially with young children & their bikes.
- Would like to have a **safe bike/walk passageway to get uptown**.

- Again with New York City as a model, Central park manages to have lots going on, or passive respites if you want one. I love the vibrancy of Central park, which Indepd park doesn't have. Also that part of the park is much of the time **occupied by Eliz traditional school, so others aren't allowed to play there.**
- Although outside the plan area it would benefit the city to encourage a more pedestrian/bicyclist friendly Pecan between the RR tracks and Central. There seems to be enough room in the R/W to provide a planting strip with large trees - this would soften the industrial feel and encourage vehicles to slow down due to a narrower roadbed. This would help slow the speeding on Pecan within Elizabeth and would be a wonderful connector between Elizabeth, Chantilly and Plaza Midwood.
- We have lots of dogs in the neighborhood -- it would be wonderful to have **a place where dogs can run off-leash, chase tennis balls, etc.** I know a lot of people who do that at Chantilly Park, and sometimes Independence Park, but strictly speaking it's against the rules. It would also be nice if the **Hawthorne Rec center** served our whole community in some way. How can we **integrate that facility into the neighborhood?**
- scared as the trees are reaching their age
- I would like to see an area set aside as a **dog run.**
- **PLEASE convert the parking lot in the middle of Independence Park to a playground.** It is SUCH a waste to be putting cars in our open, communal spaces!
- The empty unmaintained open lot on Vail Avenue (between Laurel Ave and Dotger Ave) The undeveloped land is not only an eye sore but, a safety concern. It is currently being used, or at least has been for the past year, as a commercial rental.
- Trees! Trees! Trees! Also I am **concerned about the high density housing that is coming.** The roads aren't built to handle that much more traffic. AND I don't want them to be for high density traffic!
- Consider **removing the parking lot from the rose garden end of Independence Park.** The Stanleyville parking lot is not attractive - too much pavement and too many curb cuts, all without any trees or plantings.
- **CMC dumping debris and hospital waste, etc., into Briar Creek.** The City of Charlotte maintaining vegetation growth in the dip on N. Laurel Avenue. The natural habitats of Elizabeth being preserved, i.e., there is an area on Deacon Street just off of Dotger of concern. The overuse of mosquito company users because their products not only kill mosquitoes but all bees!
- I would like to see plants and trees going in around newly cemented areas, in particular, around CPCC. I **wish that Presbyterian Hospital would create an area for people to smoke.** You often see patients out on Hawthorne smoking. I've seen people in their gowns, even with their IV hook-ups trailing behind. I wish people had an outdoor space off the side of the road to hang out and smoke.
- Keep the passive part of Independence Park the way it is! There are some of us who do not have young children and **like a little peace and quiet.**
- The play features in Independence Park are desirable but the park is a little cramped. It would be nice to find some way to **expand the park to provide some elbow room** for additional play features.
- It will soon be hard to make any open spaces, parks, or greenways with the big apartment blocks being planned for. The small town feel will soon be gone if there is more street parking, more traffic lanes, more huge development, no small shops or eating places except for chains. Some large trees have been saved in a few of the developed apartment complexes, but they are old, in bad shape, and dangerous, in many cases. I haven't noticed any large trees planned for a canopy to be re-grown. In our area, one of the areas where the Independence bridges impacted surrounding properties, there is not room in front to put a large tree that isn't too close to the buildings.
- **Independence Park should be left alone**--as it is now. If there are to be ANY changes, they should be in the lower Independence Park area. This has been the understanding with Pk and Rec for 20 years and should remain as such.

- Developers and the hospitals generally cut down large, mature trees and replace them with small trees and/or trees that will not produce a good canopy (crepe myrtles, etc.).
- Independence Park is so centrally located within Elizabeth and is a large enough park that I **don't think additional neighborhood parks are necessary**. Also, I would **love to see the greenway system expanded**.
- We need: (1) a small playground in upper Independence Park but away from the rose garden; (2) **more public open green spaces within any proposed large residential, multi-family development**.
- Where would additional parks be? Where would greenways and trails be?
- Do NOT want to see 7th Street turned into another hi-speed boulevard for drivers to utilize as a way to get to and from downtown FASTER.
- around the railroad crossing on Pecan. There's lots of trash.
- Not worried about a decrease in trees and greenery from the current state, unless there is a plan to remove any.
- While supporting the idea of in-fill, it is also important to combine this concept with the preservation of patches of green space whenever possible. Obviously, the more inviting our sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks, the more people will utilize these and therefore decrease car use with resulting decrease in air pollution. Are you considering space for a **community garden** in Eliz-one that could also incorporate **public art** works?
- I enjoy the parks as they are- but we do not have small children still at home.
- To clarify on Independence Park, I believe the section below Hawthorne should be kept as a passive park and I'd love to see the **Kings College parking lot filled in and landscaped** in a way that integrates nicely with the rose garden. Above Hawthorne, I think the park is more a recreational facility and should be treated as such.
- Would be great to have an **easier access to Little Sugar Creek Greenway....**
- The **Rose Garden** at Independence Park is great. The **parking lot beside the Rose Garden should be green space instead**.
- Don't take away playgrounds or ballfields from Independence Park.
- Lights on Independence Park baseball soccer field often run with no people there