



Citizen Advisory Group
Meeting #5

April 12, 2012

6:00 p.m.

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Meeting Agenda

1. Vision Statement
2. Greenways
3. Storm Water
4. Tree Canopy
5. Group Exercise
6. Wrap-up & Next Steps





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Vision Statement



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PARK WOODLAWN AREA PLAN

VISION STATEMENT *(3rd Revised Version)*

The Park Woodlawn area is recognized as one of Charlotte's most vibrant, attractive and diverse areas of our city. The dynamic blend of mature neighborhoods led by engaged community leaders and residents; along with a thriving mixed-use activity center containing long standing local businesses, and active civic institutions help form part of this thriving community.

This plan sets forth a vision for this area by moving forward with its unique focus on:

- **Neighborhoods** which are the cornerstone to the stability of the area and will be essential in preserving the distinctive character of the community into the future. New development in and around the neighborhoods will take into account its impact on the quality of life of area residents by: protecting the tree canopy; providing a variety of enhanced and safe transportation connections that improve mobility; and consider community input during the development process.
- **Open space** will be well integrated into the community through greenways, parks and plazas where appropriate as new developments takes shape.
- **Transportation** *infrastructure will be developed to connect neighborhoods and activity centers; it should safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists.*
- **Mixed-Use Activity Center** will be a thriving neighborhood serving mixed-use center, complimentary and enhancing to the surrounding neighborhoods; with a rich variety of retail, office, entertainment and multi-family residential uses; in a well designed and appropriately scaled development form that is conducive to a high quality of life for area residents and visitors.



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Kick-Off Meeting Values

Tree Canopy

Walk-ability

Bike Lanes

Access/Location



Character

Parks & Greenways

Neighborhood Feel

Land Use Choices

Family Friendly Neighborhoods

CAG Breakout Exercise – Neighborhood Issues

Neighborhood Group

- Improve access to Center
- Connect parks and schools
- Calm traffic
- Create more pedestrian connections





- Citizen Advisory Group Meetings

All meetings start at 6pm here at the YWCA

~~1st Meeting December 8th, 2011~~

~~2nd Meeting January 12th, 2012~~

~~3rd Meeting February 16th, 2012~~

~~4th Meeting March 8th, 2012~~

5th Meeting April 12th, 2012

6th Meeting May 10th, 2012

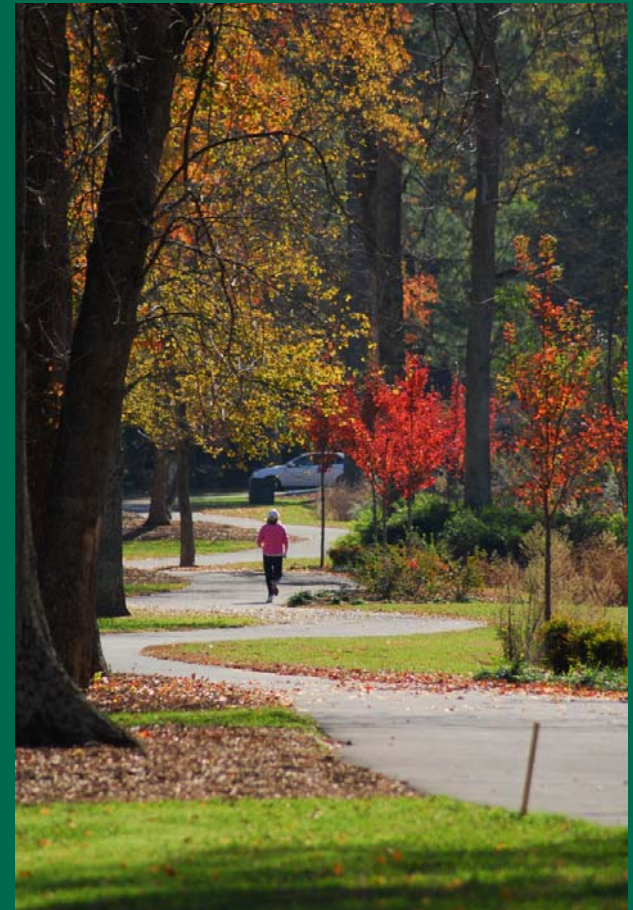
Other Future Meeting Dates, Time and Location TBD



Greenway Overview and Benefits

Greenway trails provide recreation, transportation, fitness, and economic benefits for all to enjoy. There are currently 37 miles of developed and 150 miles of undeveloped greenways in Mecklenburg County.

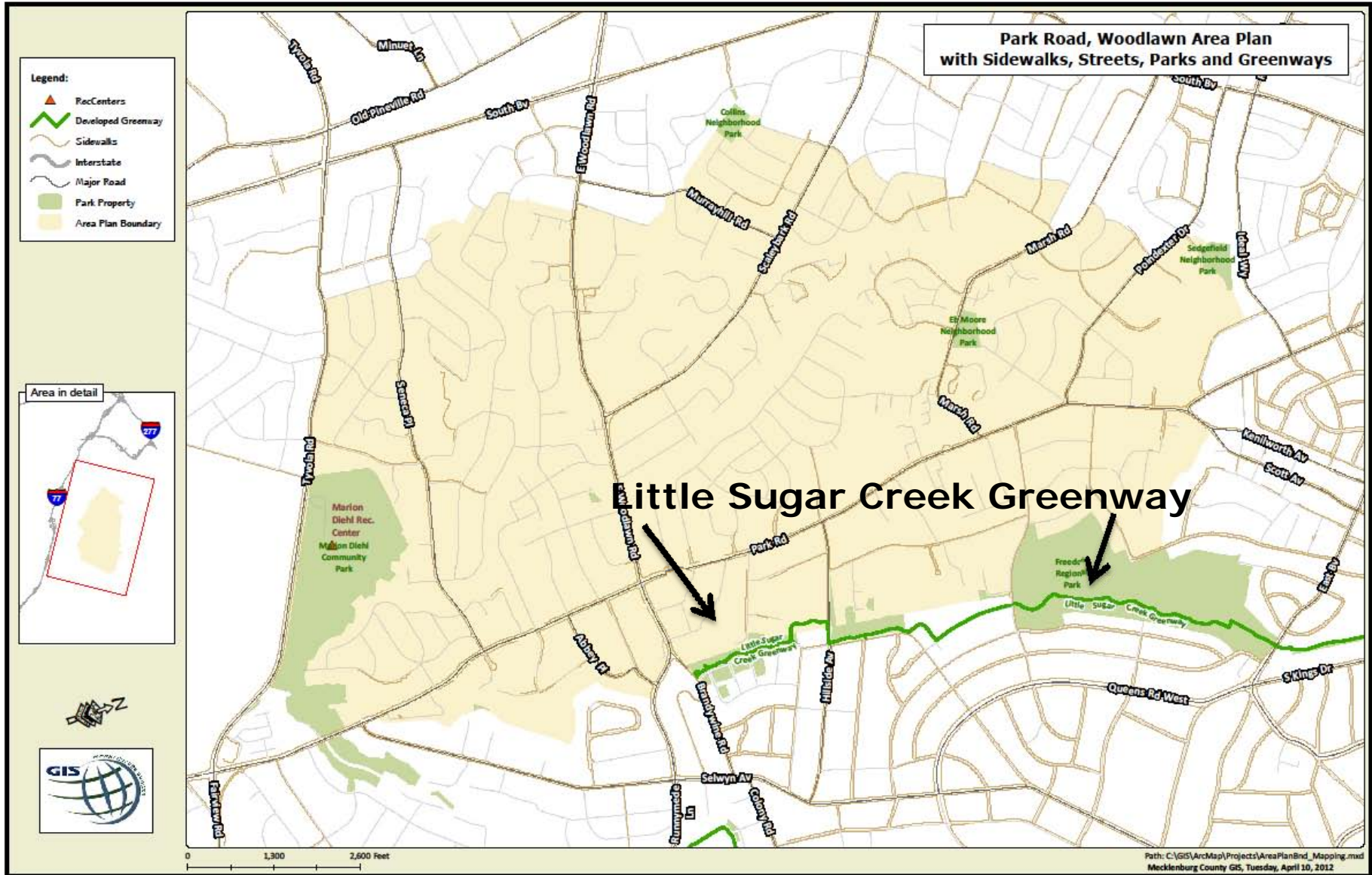
- **Neighborhood Benefits**
 - Connect and link people and places
 - May increase in property values safety
- **Active Transportation**
 - Non-motorized users
- **Recreational Benefits**
 - Provides convenient access to recreational activities
 - Promotes health and fitness
- **Environmental Benefits**
 - Improve water quality by buffering streams
 - Preserve wildlife habitat biodiversity
 - Reduce flood damage
 - Reduces traffic congestion and promote clean air
- **Community Benefits**
 - Places available for special events
- **Educational Benefits**
 - Promotes link to schools and other gathering places
 - Environmental awareness education programs
 - Create places to connect to nature.





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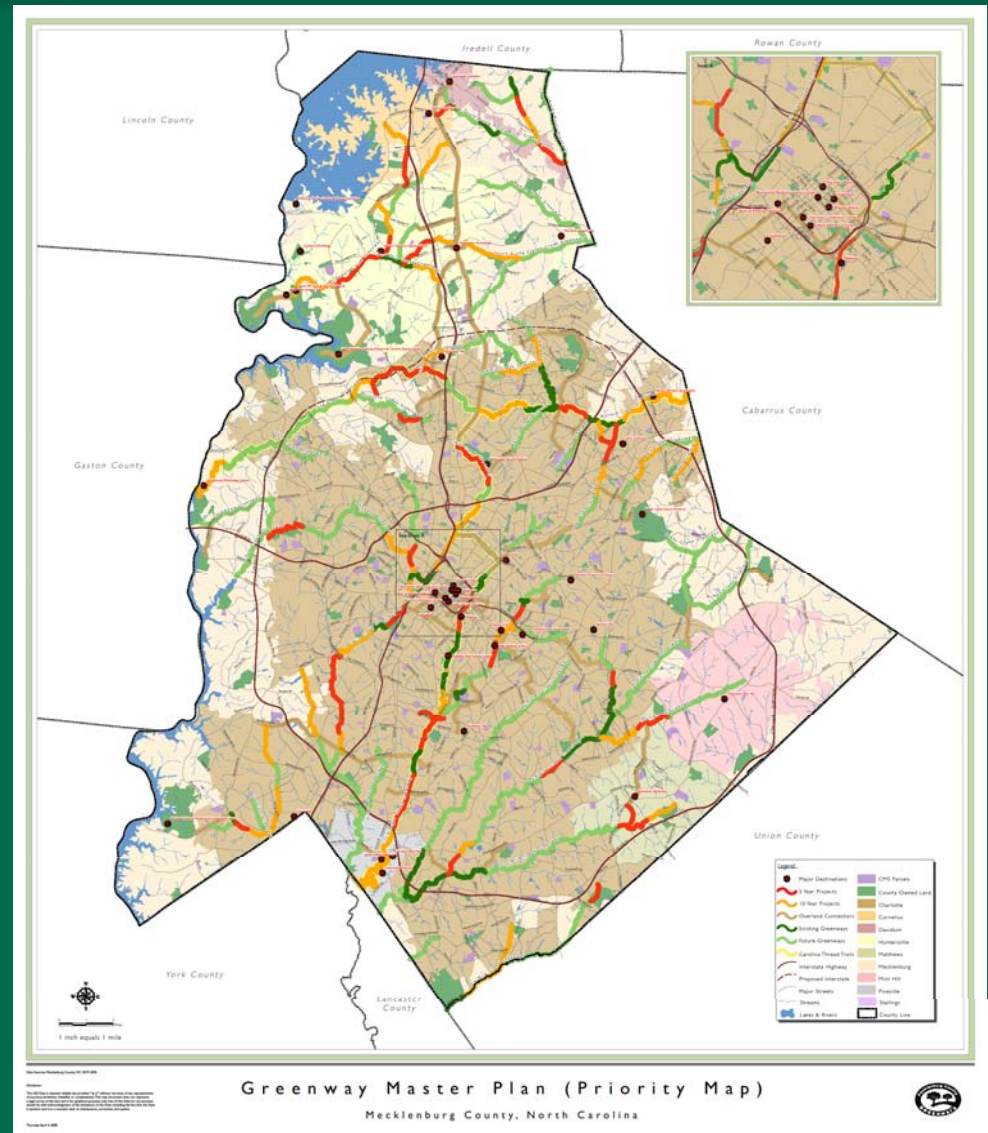
Greenways in the Park Road-Woodlawn Area





Prioritized Greenway Master Plan

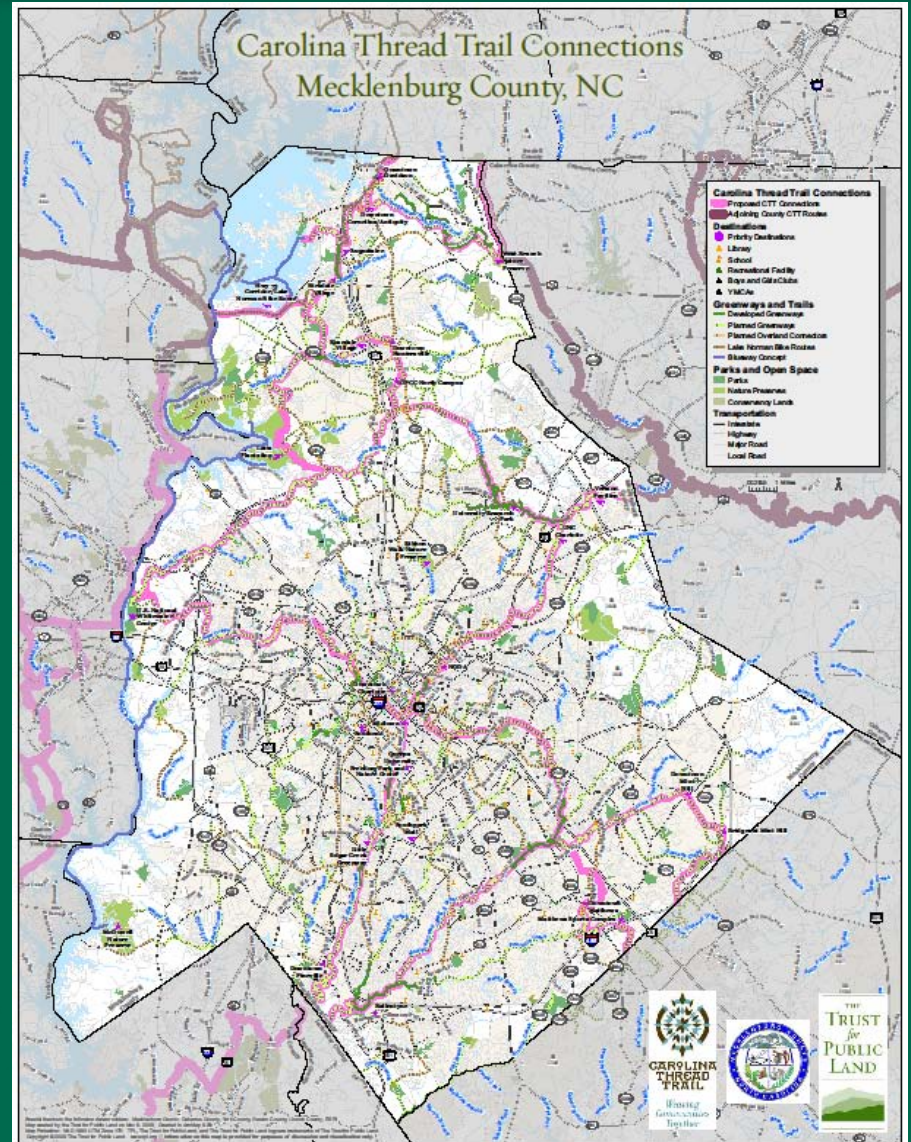
- Includes 185 miles
- Over 37 miles are constructed and open
- 2008 Bond Referendum included \$43 M for greenways





Carolina Thread Trail Map

- The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of greenways and trails that reaches 15 counties and 2.3 million citizens. It links people, places, cities, towns and attractions.
- Little Sugar Creek Greenway is an important corridor on the Thread.
- When Little Sugar Creek Greenway is complete, the greenway will feature over 15 miles of paths, habitats and flowing water from the University area to the South Carolina line, conveniently linking CPCC, Carolinas Medical Center and the Park Road and Carolina Place shopping areas.





Current Plans for Extending Greenway

- Park and Recreation has received a grant for funding the design of 5 miles of Little Sugar Creek Greenway
- In FY 2014 the greenway is to receive NCDOT funding for construction of 1 mile of greenway.





Regulatory Framework

- Clean Water Act - 1972 - *"The objective of this Act is to **restore** and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."*
- State Law 2006-246 – Requires treatment of stormwater in all large communities in NC.
- City's NPDES Permit – Requires stormwater controls for post construction.



*"To preserve, protect
and enhance
North Carolina's water..."*



Environmental Impacts Resulting from Development

- Unmitigated storm water runoff:
 - scours creek banks,
 - harms animal habitat
 - Affects streams, lakes, water supplies, and quality of life
 - Increased flows worsen flooding



Environmental Effects of Urbanization





Impaired Streams

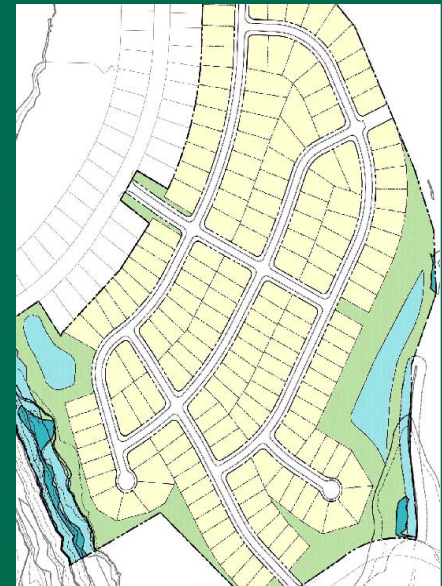
Most of our streams are impaired

- ◆ Environmental Report Card:
 - Most of our streams are impaired
- ◆ State/Federal requirements push us to progressively reverse this condition
- ◆ Stop behaviors that led to this condition



Stakeholder Recommendations to Address Local Issues

- Strengthened Detention Measures
 - Protection from stream erosion
 - Protection from street and house flooding
- Natural Area requirements
- Wider stream buffers in sensitive areas
- Additional nutrient controls (lakes, Yadkin)
- ◆ Requirements for redevelopment - existing problems are caused by existing development



What the Ordinance Requires

- Pollutant Removal
 - Water Quality volume from 1" storm runoff (85% Total Suspended Solids and in some watersheds 70% Phosphorous removal)
- Detention
 - Channel Protection volume from the 1-year rain event released over 48-120 hours
 - Peak Control for the 10- and 25-year rain events (some exceptions apply)
 - Water quality and flood control benefits
- Stream Buffer Protection
 - Applies to intermittent and perennial streams
 - Most vary between 30'(state minimum) and 100'+50% fringe
 - Some are undisturbed up to 200', depending on sensitivity of watershed
- Natural Area (Trees)



Flexibility Options

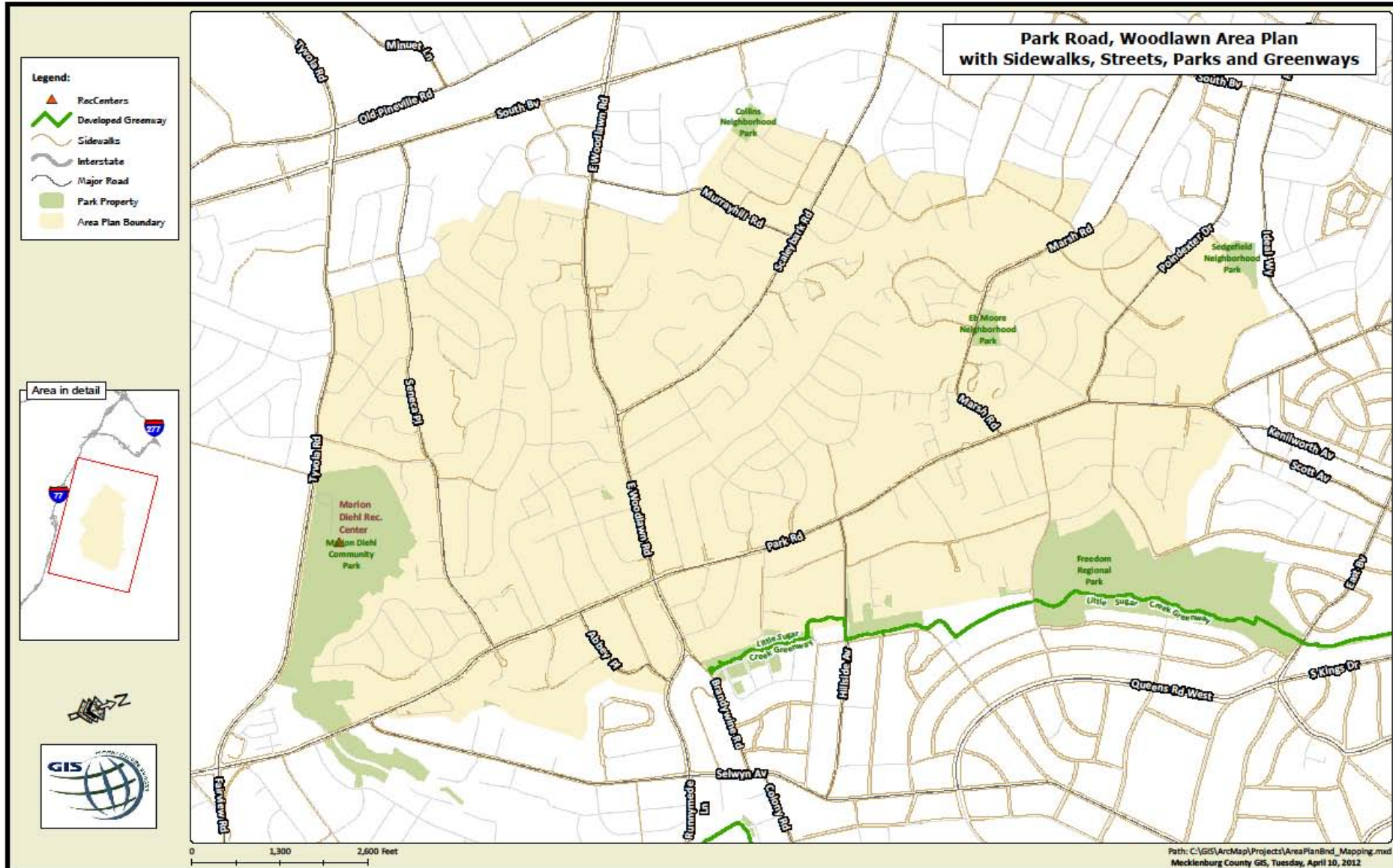
- Transit Station Area/Distressed Business District
- Natural Area mitigation options
 - On-site/ Off-site mitigation
 - Payment-In-Lieu
- Lots less than one acre
 - May pay mitigation fee
- Phosphorous Mitigation
 - Off-site mitigation
 - Fee-in-Lieu
- Variance process

- Pilot BMP Program
 - Cartridge filter systems
 - Infiltration/extended detention hybrid BMP being installed
 - Floating Islands being discussed with several projects (public and private)
 - Irrigation/infiltration/water reuse master plan for Queens University
 - Modular wetlands
 - Green roofs
 - Porous pavements



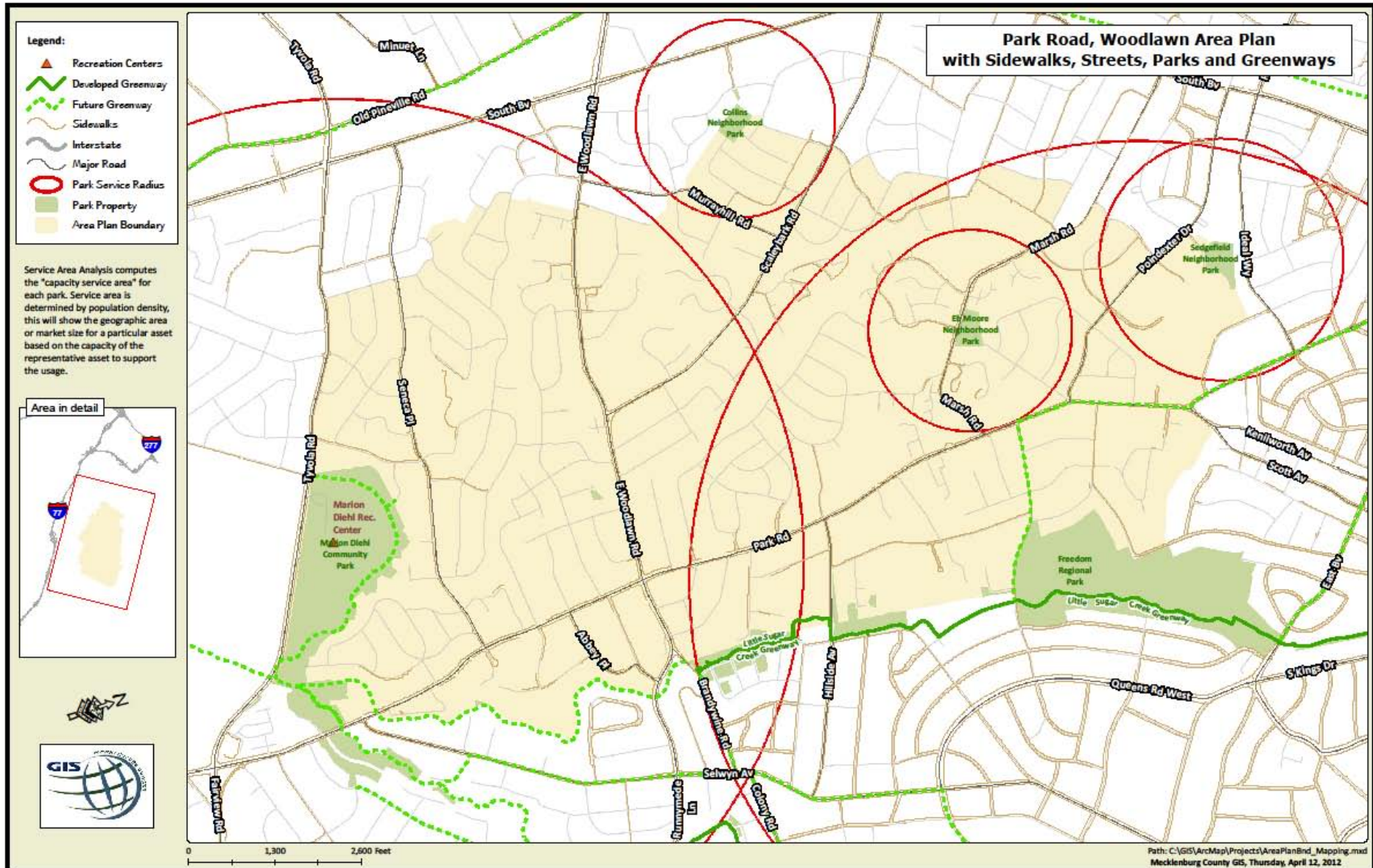
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Parks and Partnerships in the Park Rd-Woodlawn Area



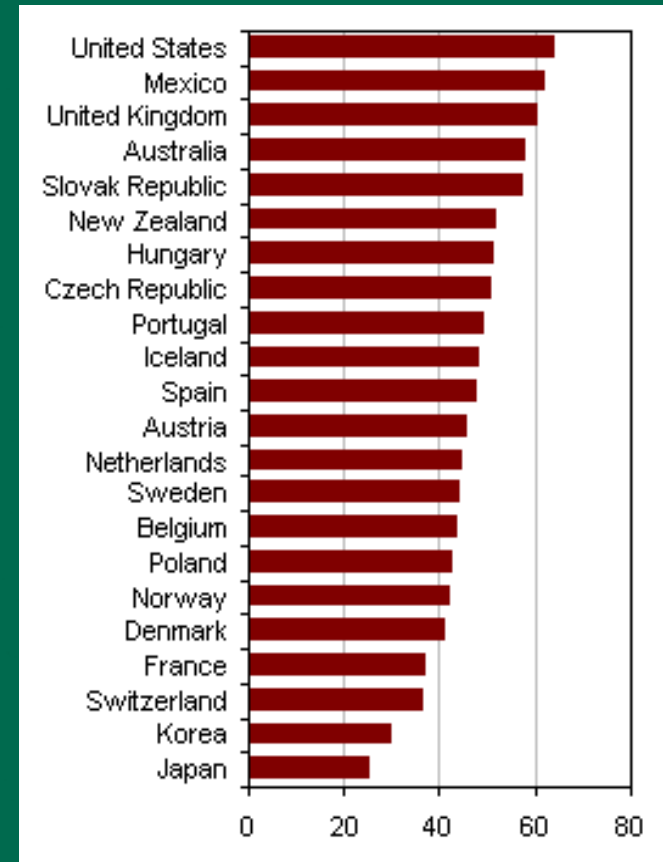
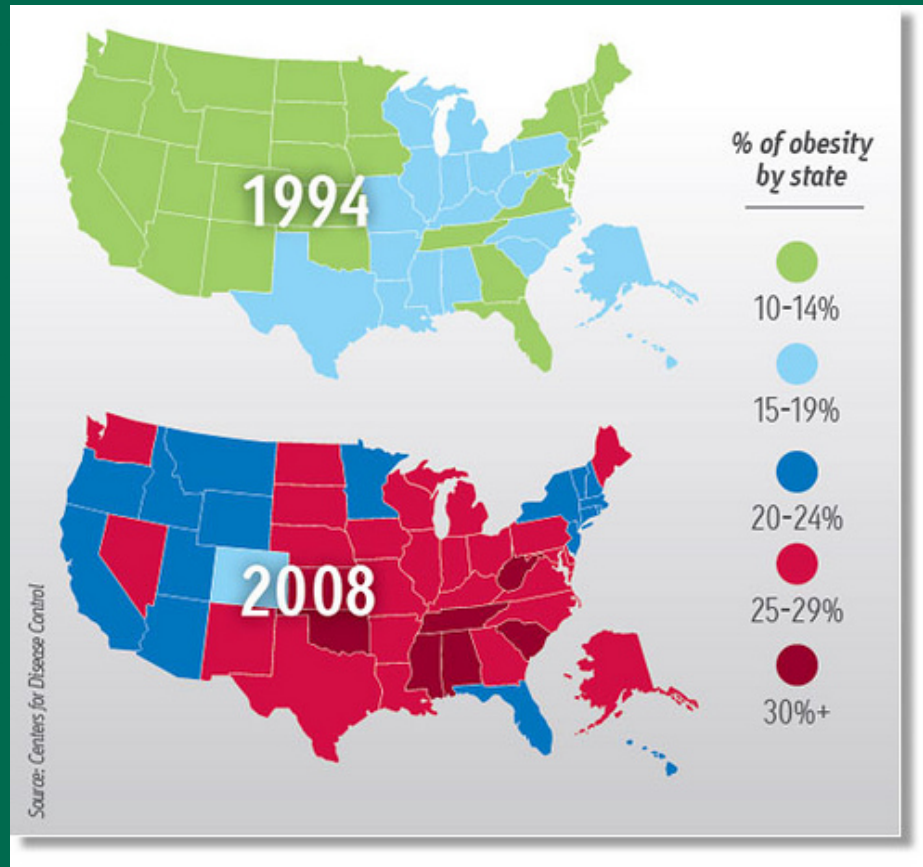


Gap Analysis





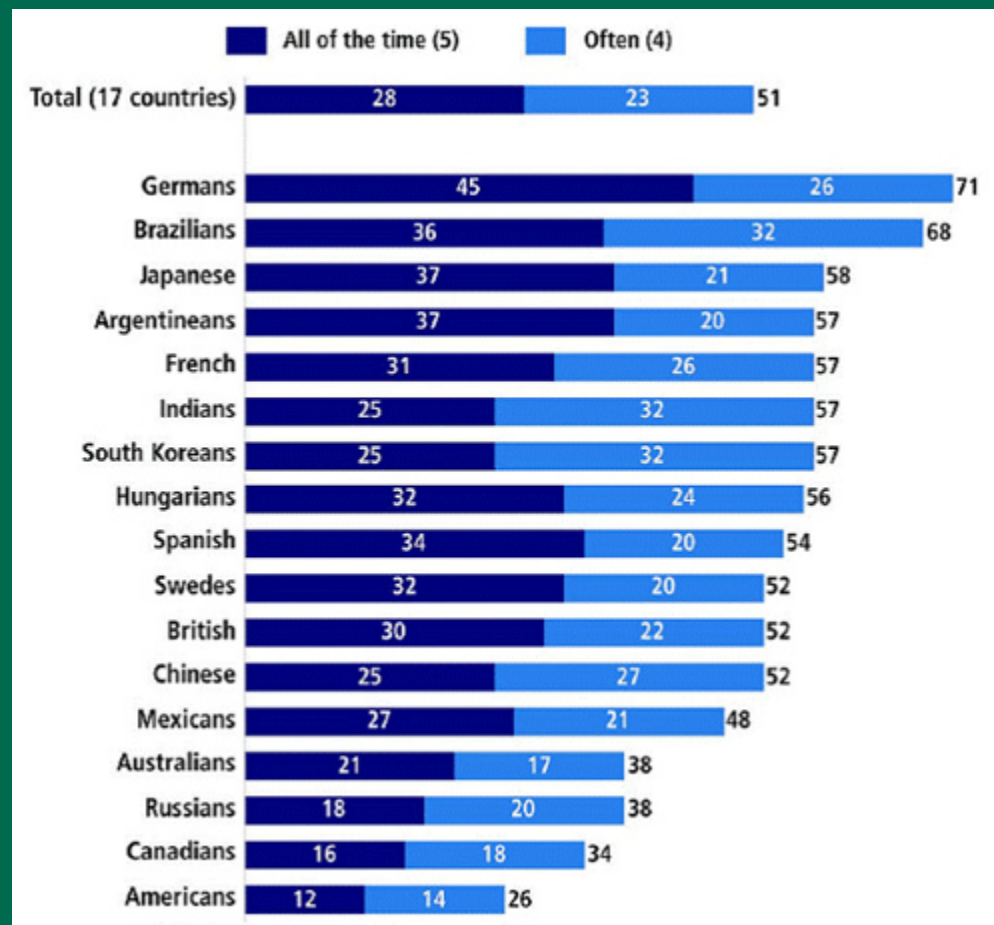
- Our current lifestyle has generated a population where 2/3 of Americans are either overweight or obese!



Obesity Rates



Percent of the population in 17 countries that walks or bicycles to purposeful destinations





- Obesity is one of the biggest drivers of preventable chronic diseases and health care costs
- Preventing chronic disease through healthy behaviors is a local community health priority
- Why? Because of the 5,058 deaths in 2009 in Mecklenburg County, nearly 50% were caused by cancer, heart disease and stroke





- Projected savings in US health care costs if obesity rates were reduced by 5%:
 - \$29.8 billion in 5 years
 - \$158.1 billion in 10 years
 - \$611.7 billion in 20 years
- If current trends continue, obesity rates could grow from 32% to 50-51% for men and from 35% to 45-52% for women by 2030



- Building sidewalks and access to parks are 2 of many ways communities can increase the physical activity of its citizens (CDC's Community Preventive Services Taskforce)
- Studies have found that people increase their physical activity at least 25% where their neighborhood is designed to support active transportation.
- 77% of people consider sidewalks and places to take walks among the top community characteristics when deciding where to live (2011 Community Preference Survey for the National Association of Realtors)
- 41% of people who feel their community is short on places to walk or exercise for fun (2011 Community Preference Survey for the National Association of Realtors)



- A 2011 American Heart Association research review found:
 - Every \$1 spent on building multi-use trails saves an estimated \$3 in medical expenses
 - Lifestyle changes in nutrition and activity reduced the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 58% vs 31% with drug therapy

Why don't Americans walk or bicycle more?





- [Be A City That With Healthy Land Use Policies](#)
- [From Minnesota to Mississippi, America Tells Congress to Preserve Bike-Ped Funding](#)
(short video on active transportation and health care costs from recent National Bike Summit)
- Remedies:
 - Complete streets
 - Better street connectivity
 - Shops, work and activities in close proximity to homes
 - Sidewalks and transit stops
- A significant portion of our health is inextricably tied to our surroundings



- Conclusion: we need communities designed to provide access to good nutrition and choices for incorporating physical activity into our daily routines...our lives truly depend on it!

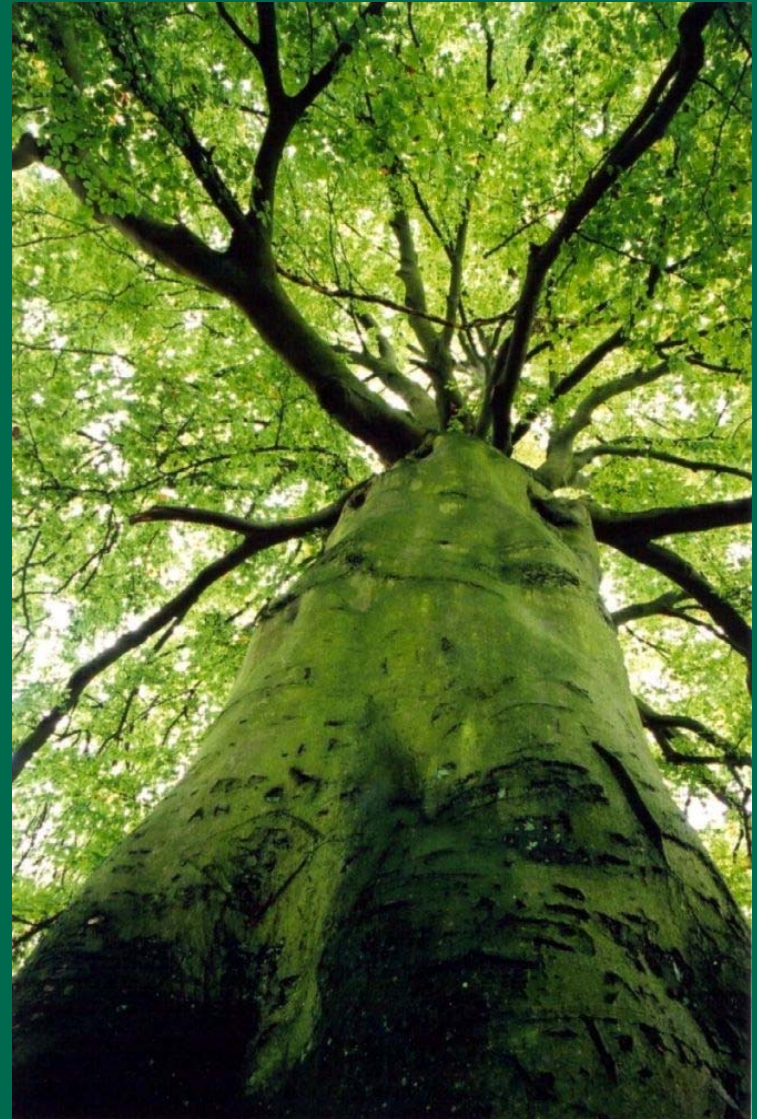


An aerial photograph showing a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. A winding paved path or road cuts through the forest. In the background, a city skyline with several tall skyscrapers is visible under a clear sky.

Charlotte Tree Ordinance

Tom Johnson
Senior Urban Forestry Specialist
Dave Cable
Consultant

- History
- Tree Canopy Studies
- 2011 Revisions
- Tree Canopy Goal





History

- 1975 State enabling legislation adopted
- 1978 City Council approved tree ordinance: commercial tree planting
- 1989 Added commercial tree save in front setback
- 2000 Added urban tree planting requirements
- 2002 Added single-family tree save and street tree planting
- 2011 Made technical & administrative revisions



History

Since 2002, typical Tree Ordinance Requirements for single-family subdivision and commercial development in Charlotte:

- Tree Preservation
- Tree Planting





History

Tree preservation is the primary tool for maintaining the existing tree canopy



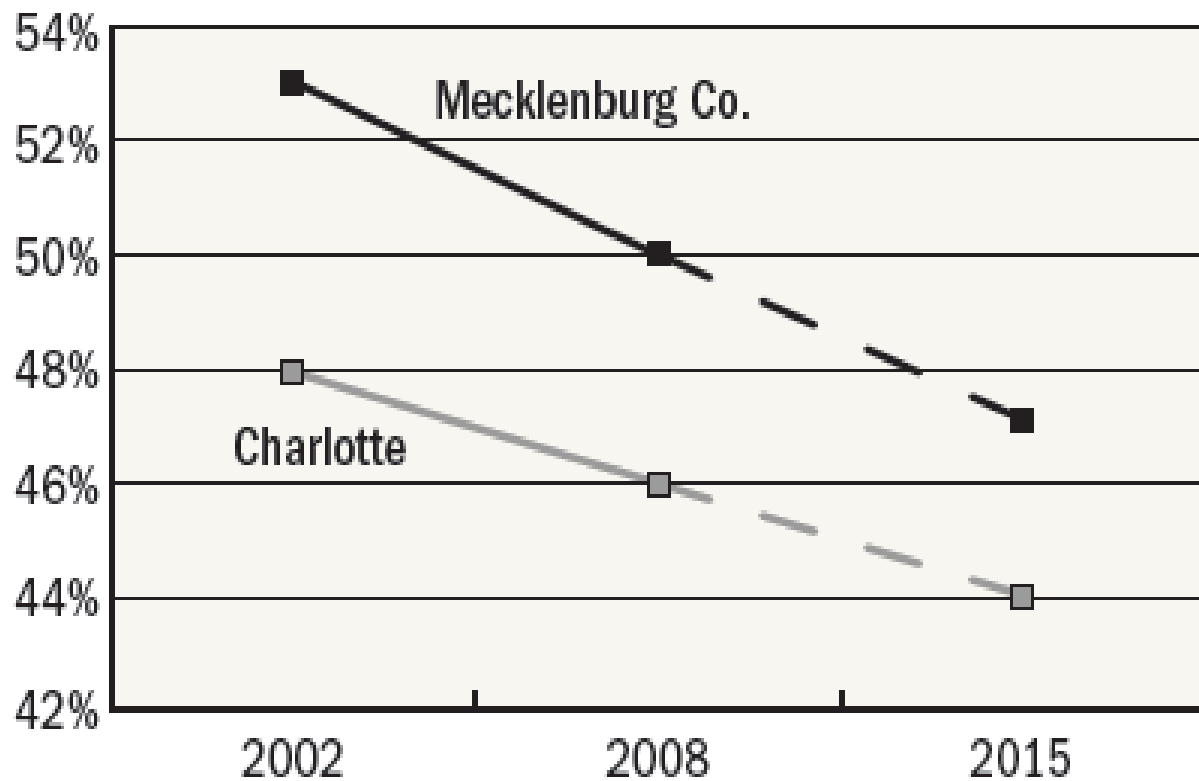
Charlotte Tree Ordinance



- History
- Tree Canopy Studies
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- Tree Canopy Goal



Actual and Projected Tree Canopy Decline



- History
- Tree Canopy Studies
- 2011 Revisions
- Tree Canopy Goal





Intent was to enhance Charlotte's tree canopy by:

- Offering increased flexibility and options for commercial tree save;
- Increasing the number of trees planted to shade parking lots; and
- Fine tuning existing regulations



2 Major Revisions:


1. Commercial Tree Preservation-

New development: 15% tree save with options for compliance (Additions to Existing sites are only required to protect trees in the building setback along streets).

2. Commercial Tree Planting-

All parking must be within 40' of an approved tree.

Charlotte Tree Ordinance

- 
- History
 - City Council Priorities
 - Tree Canopy Studies
 - 2011 Revisions
 - **Tree Canopy Goal**

Following the tree ordinance revisions, City Council adopted a 50% Tree Canopy Goal by 2050

- Reflects and expresses the value our community places on the canopy
- Communicates a shared target for public, private, non-profit organizations and citizens to rally around
- Creates a legacy statement about sustainability and community quality of life



Benefits of Tree Canopy Sub-Goals by Centers, Corridors, Wedges

- Supports the vision of the City's Centers, Corridors, Wedges growth framework by recognizing that different parts of a City have different opportunities and needs related to tree canopy
- Appropriately aligns expectations for tree canopy with expectations for land use
- Helps staff, community groups, and citizens direct their tree planting and preservation efforts to areas with greatest gap between current canopy and goal



Canopy by Planning Framework

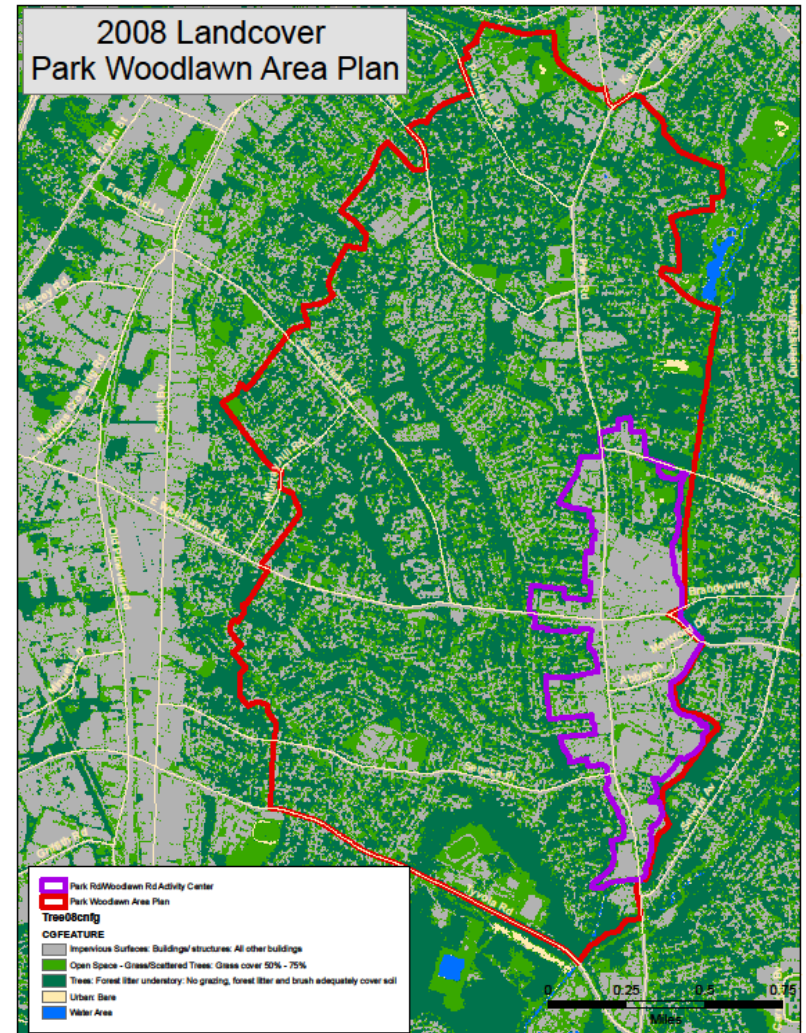
	% of Land Area	2008 Actual Canopy Coverage		Tree Canopy Coverage: Guiding Action Toward the Goal “50% in 2050”		
		Average	Range	Low	Good	Exemplary
Wedges	67%	55%	47% - 58%	<55%	55%-60%	60%+
Corridors	20%	42%	31% - 43%	<35%	35%-45%	45%+
Centers	13%	34%	13% - 74%	<25%	25%-45%	45%+
Action Needed:				Encourage widespread planting efforts	Analyze further; encourage planting where needed	



Park / Woodlawn Plan Area

Canopy Coverage

Center: 13.0%
Wedge: 48.1%
Total: 43.7%





Centers < 25%

Airport **Park Road/Woodlawn (13%)**

Southpark Steele Creek/Hwy 49

Stonecrest Whitehall

Center City

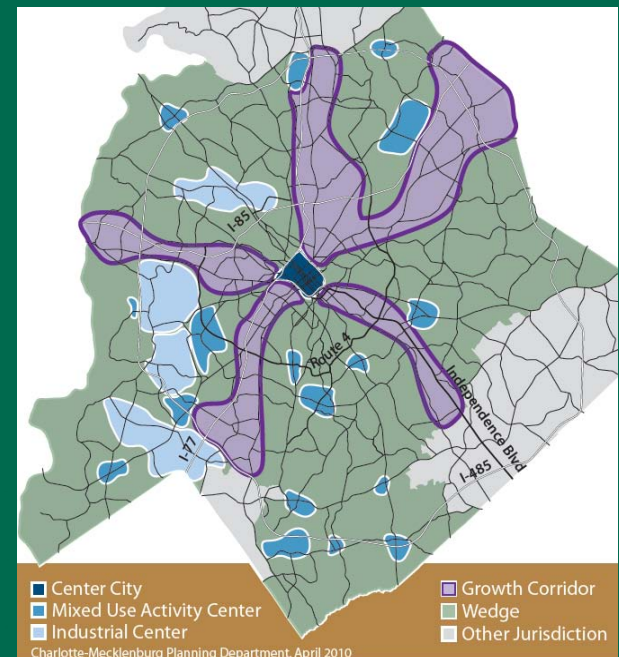
Corridors < 35%

South Corridor

Wedges < 55%

Northeast Wedge

South Wedge (52%)





Canopy Goal for Park / Woodlawn

	City + ETJ		Park / Woodlawn Plan Area					
	Ranges	Average	Current Canopy		Modest Goal		Stretch Goal	
					Coverage	New Tree Canopy	Coverage	New Tree Canopy
Centers	13%-74%	34%	13%	33 A	20%	18 A	25%	31 A
Wedges	47%-58%	55%	48%	868 A	50%	34 A	55%	125 A
Totals	--	49%	44%	902 A	49%	53 A	54%	156 A





The canopy initiative is a profound and unique opportunity to engage communities across the City in planting, protecting, and caring for trees.

Citizens can help meet the tree canopy goal by:

- ☐ stewarding their privately owned trees and planting the “right tree in the right place”
- ☐ participating in volunteer tree planting efforts
- ☐ participating in area land use planning to advocate for neighborhood trees and neighborhood canopy goals
- ☐ supporting City budgets and elected officials who promote tree programs
- ☐ participating in the development of the urban forestry management plan
- ☐ advocating for trees
- ☐ champion tree canopy programs and planting initiatives in your neighborhood

Charlottetrees.charmeck.org





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Discussion

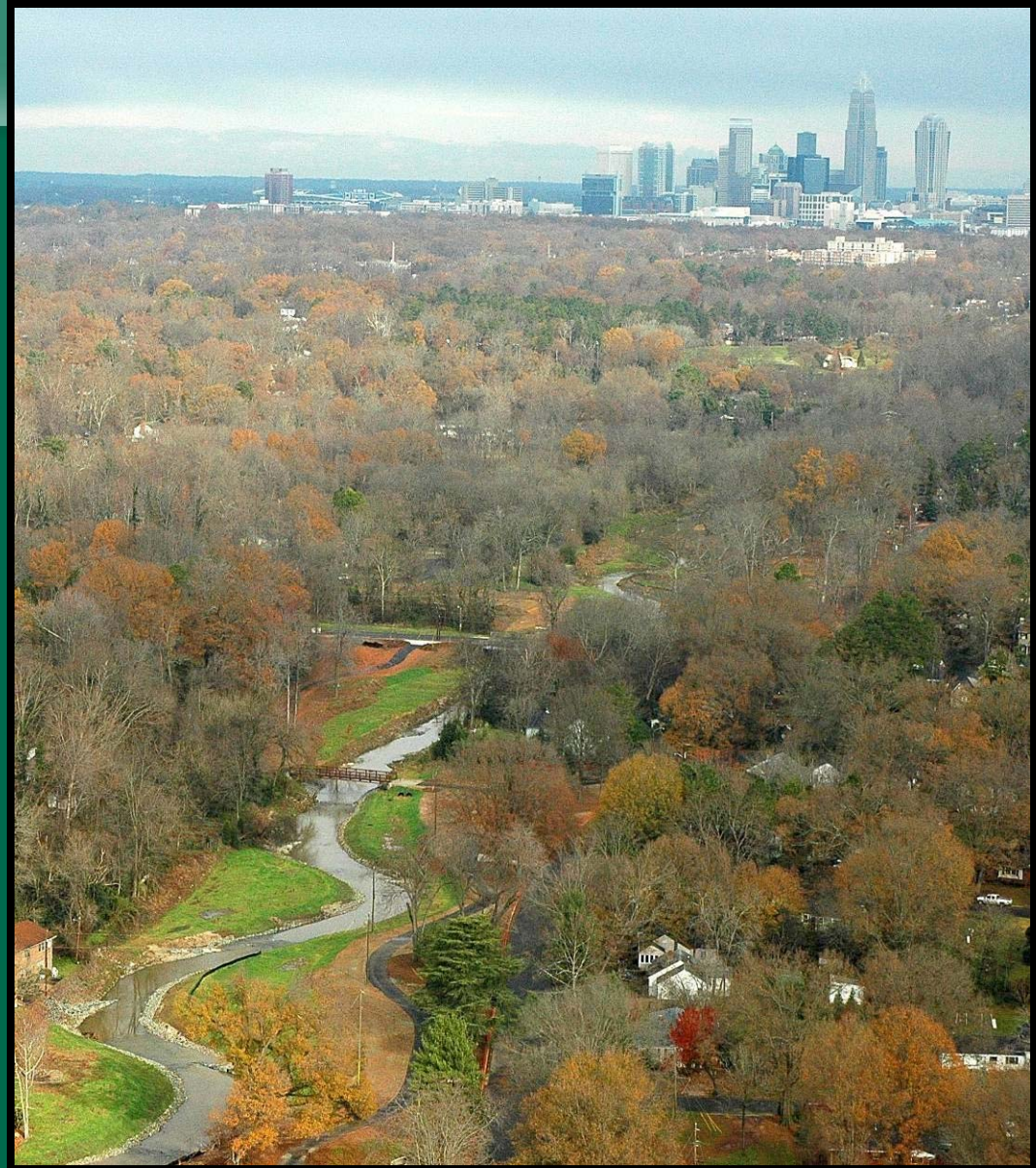
Gwen Cook, Planner
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City of Charlotte

Dick Winters,
Mecklenburg County Health Department

Dave Cable, Catawba Lands Conservancy
Consultant to City of Charlotte

Tom Johnson, Director of Urban Forestry
Engineering & Property Management
City of Charlotte



Little Sugar Creek Greenway and Stream Restoration

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Integrating connectivity and green space

Tools:

- **Green stickers** for green space
- **Pink stickers** for destinations to be connected
- Use markers for connectivity between destinations/green space



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Thank You!

[*www.charlotteplanning.org*](http://www.charlotteplanning.org)

Planning Staff Contact:

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Phone: 704-336-8315

City and County Staff will be available to discuss specific issues with you after the meeting.

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