MANDATORY REFERRAL REPORT NO. 00-39 CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG PLANNING COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITION NOVEMBER, 2000

PROJECT LOCATION

This 159 acre tract of land is located along Soldier Road near Lake Wylie in southwestern Mecklenburg County.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department desires to purchase land to accommodate expansion of McDowell Nature Preserve. The expansion would increase the size of the preserve from 940 acres to 1,109 acres. The land will be preserved as open space for passive recreation purposes.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The addition of this acreage to McDowell Nature Preserve will connect the main body of the preserve to the McDowell boat access and Copperhead Island. The expansion will also bring the preserve into conformance with the minimum acreage recommended in the 1989 Charlotte Mecklenburg Parks Master Plan for a nature preserve. Preservation of the site in its natural state will provide environmental benefits that accrue from large assemblages of undeveloped land near urban centers. The location of the subject property will also serve Lake Wylie watershed protection purposes.

PROJECT IMPACT

The purchase of this property will allow the McDowell Nature Preserve to expand from 940 acres to 1,109 acres. The preserve is used for passive outdoor recreation and environmental education purposes. No adverse impacts are expected from this expansion.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS

The property is located within the scope of the Southwest District Plan. The Plan recommends residential use of the site at a density of less than one dwelling unit per acre.

PROJECT COST

Market appraisals will be the basis for negotiations and land costs for this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning Staff supports the purchase of this property to accommodate expansion of the McDowell Nature Preserve.

PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Committee voted unanimously 6-0 to support staff's recommendation.



GIS Real Estate System

Mecklenburg County, NC Geographic Information Systems

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