

MANDATORY REFERRAL | REPORT NO. 19-26
Proposal to acquire property on Neck Road

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND LOCATION:

The County would like to acquire tax parcel 013-032-25 (+/- 6.802 acres) located on Neck Road as an addition to Auten Nature Preserve. Zoned R Rural according to the Town of Huntersville's Zoning Ordinance, the property is undeveloped and surrounded by single-family residential properties and other County-owned nature preserve properties.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

As the County continues to develop, the opportunity to preserve the area's natural habitat and vegetation will become increasingly rare. Acquisition of this property takes steps toward achieving contiguous property ownership for Auten Nature Preserve. Park and Recreation has found that nature preserves function better with large, contiguous stretches of property so that plant and animal life can be maintained and protected.

CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED PUBLIC POLICIES:

This acquisition is consistent with Mecklenburg County's *Park and Recreation Master Plan* which recommends the acquisition of land to provide linkages between nature preserves, especially in the vicinity of Mountain Island Lake.

CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED LAND USE PLANS:

This acquisition is consistent with the goals and objectives adopted by the Town of Huntersville.

PROJECT IMPACT: Acquisition of this property fills in ownership gaps for the County's Nature Preserve properties in this area and expands the area protected by Auten Nature Preserve. County acquisition of this property also removes the risk of potential development for this parcel.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROJECTS: There are no known related public or private projects.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: Acquisition of this parcel is expected to be complete in FY20.

JOINT USE TASK FORCE REVIEW COMMENTS:

The Joint Use Task Force reviewed this proposal electronically and offered no comments.

TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE PLANNING STAFF REVIEW:

Planning staff has reviewed the proposed request and has no additional comments.

CMPC PLANNING COMMITTEE REVIEW:

At their November 19th meeting, the Planning Committee reviewed the proposed request and had the following comment:

- Considering vacant land in the county is becoming scarce due to development, the Planning Committee would like to commend Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation for recognizing the importance of acquiring and pursuing land to create more parks for our city.

LOCATION MAP



