MANDATORY REFERRAL REPORT NO. 98-22 CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG PLANNING COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEVIN PARK JULY, 1998

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND LOCATION

The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department is proposing to acquire 17.038+ acres of vacant land (2 parcels) for the purpose of enlarging Nevin Park, which is located in the northeast park (and planning) districts. These parcels of land (tax parcels 045-362-01 and 045-362-02) are zoned **R-3** and are located on Nevin Road at Hoyt Hinson Road (see attached maps) at the entrance to the RibbonWalk, a botanical forest.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The 1989 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Parks Master Plan recommends the acquisition and development of several community parks, including Nevin Park (formerly called Statesville Road Park). The plan recommends a size range of 300 to 500 acres for community parks with a desirable size of 400 acres. The subject property will expand Nevin Park to 363 acres and will provide an improved public/vehicular access to RibbonWalk by allowing Hoyt Hinson Road to be closed as a public right of way (this will be requested appropriately from CDOT) and by relocating the entrance drive so that the sight distance on Nevin Road is greatly improved/safer. The existing 1933-vintage house on the property would be utilized for storage and/or a residence for a caretaker, short-term. The master site plan for the RibbonWalk portion of the park includes an observation tower and visitors/administration center.

PROJECT IMPACT

This proposed project would expand the site of the RibbonWalk (specialty) portion of Nevin Park, would allow construction of a safer public/vehicular entrance and would provide space for other features proposed in the master site plan for the botanical forest.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS

The subject property is located at the entrance to the RibbonWalk (botanical forest) portion of Nevin Park and would expand the park to 363 acres. In addition, this acquisition would allow Hoyt Hinson Road to be closed as a public right of way and would relocated the entrance drive so that the sight distance ion Nevin Road would be greatly improved.

The purpose of RibbonWalk is to provide a living museum, a woodland setting for environmental education, research, community outreach, horticultural displays, botanical collections, special events and art exhibitions while conserving habitat for temperate woodland flora and fauna and preserving a large urban forest within the City of Charlotte. RibbonWalk is a public-private joint venture in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department. It is funded by foundation and community grants, private contributions and

memberships.

PROJECT COST

The current tax value of this property is \$311,640.00 and this project would be funded by special allocations from the Board of County Commissioners (FY 1998 and FY 1999).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff supports the purchase of this property for the indicated park purposes.

PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Committee unanimously approved the purchase of this property for the indicated park purposes.



