

Item Title: Adoption of the Master Plan for Lake Myra County Park

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the Master Plan for Lake Myra County Park.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners has traditionally adopted Master Plans developed for major parks in Wake County.

Background: The 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet need for County Park facilities and services in eastern Wake County. In 2007, the County acquired land for a County Park adjacent to Lake Myra in Wendell. The 2008 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan supported the need for a county park in this area.

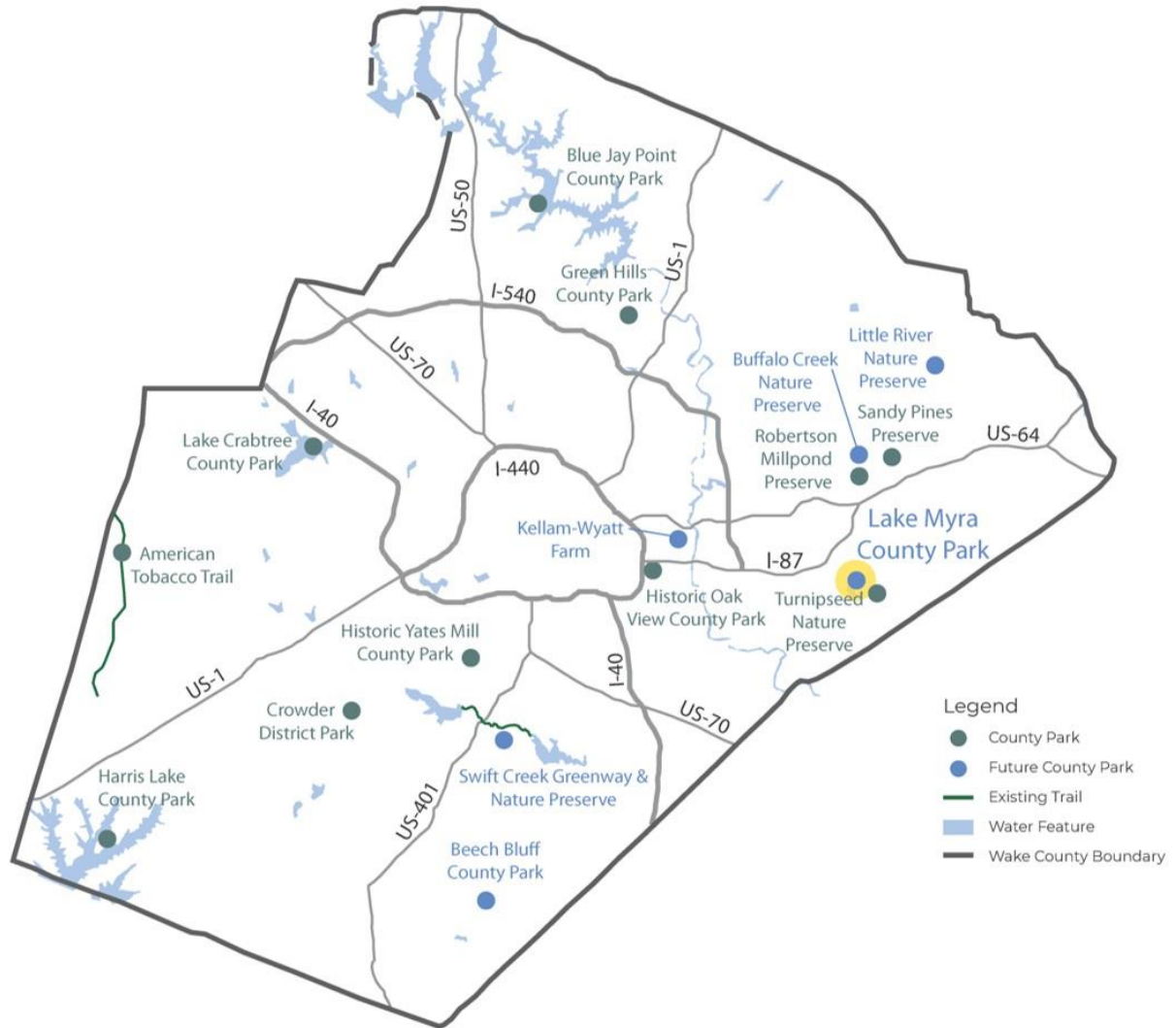
As the park remained a priority for the County, funding for the design and construction of Lake Myra County Park was included as part of the successful 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation and Open Space (PGROS) bond. The Lake Myra County Park Master Plan has been completed, and staff recommends continuing the design process for the park.

Strategic Plan: Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 3: Protect 1,000 Acres of green space, including open space, parks, greenways, farmland and forests by 2029.

Fiscal Impact: Lake Myra County Park is supported by the sale of bonds based on the 2018 Wake County PGROS Bond. \$9,626,264.50 of funding for the design and construction of this project is included in the FY 2024-30 Capital Improvement Plan in the Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space CIP and has already been appropriated. Additional funding from the planned spring 2025 PGROS bond sale is anticipated to be allocated towards this project.

Additional Information:

Wake County's 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet need for County Park facilities and services in eastern Wake County. In 2007, the County acquired approximately 218 acres for a County Park adjacent to Lake Myra in Wendell. A master plan was developed in 2009 through a community engagement process, but the plan did not move forward due to economic conditions and no available funding. Funding for design and construction of Lake Myra County Park was included in the successful 2018 PGROS Bond. Due to significantly changing land use conditions and growth in the area, a new Master Plan process was started in 2023.



Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture was selected as the landscape architectural firm and lead design consultant to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan for the development of Lake Myra County Park. Throughout the 14-month master plan process, the team gathered input from the community, stakeholders, Wake County staff, non-profit organizations, and the towns of Wendell and Knightdale. This effort and community engagement process produced a detailed site analysis, explored opportunities and constraints, and continued to draw excitement from the community via community meetings and surveys.

The core values and principles developed during this design and engagement process included opportunities for experiencing nature, passive recreation, connectivity, exploring, protecting and restoring natural systems, and balancing built and natural systems. These core values and principles support the recreational needs of the surrounding communities and align with the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space mission and core services of recreation and leisure, open space and educational opportunities. This vision for the new park includes trails (paved and natural surface), picnic shelters, restrooms, park center, maintenance facility, playgrounds, boating and

fishing opportunities, community and demonstration gardens, and successional wildlife habitats. The plan also includes green stormwater infrastructure, native plantings and public art.

While the County owns the land where the park will be developed, Lake Myra is privately owned. Conversations with the landowner have led to agreement on the type and level of public access to be allowed on the lake. An agreement between the landowner and the County is being developed which will come back to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

The Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee has reviewed the Master Plan and voted unanimously to recommend moving the project forward to the Board of Commissioners for adoption. With the adoption of the plan by the Board, staff will begin the design process for the park with the goal of beginning construction by the end of 2025.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Final Master Plan Concept – Site Rendering