

Item Title: Adoption of the Master Plan for the Future Southeast County Park

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the Master Plan for the future Southeast County Park and the permanent name of Beech Bluff County Park.

Item Summary:

Purpose: To update the Board of Commissioners on the progress of the future Southeast County Park and adopt the Master Plan for the future Beech Bluff County Park.

Background: The 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet need for County Park facilities and services in southeastern Wake County, and in 2004 the County began land acquisition for a County Park. The identified park site is along Middle Creek in an area of unique topography, with significant wetlands and wildlife habitat. To date, the County has acquired multiple tracts totaling over 300 acres.

The future Southeast County Park is a part of the successful 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation, and Open Space (PGROS) bond, and at its January 17, 2019 meeting, the Board of Commissioners made development of this park its number one priority from the bond.

The master plan for the park has been completed and staff recommends continuing the design process of the park. As a part of the master plan process, staff also suggests a new name for the future park – Beech Bluff County Park.

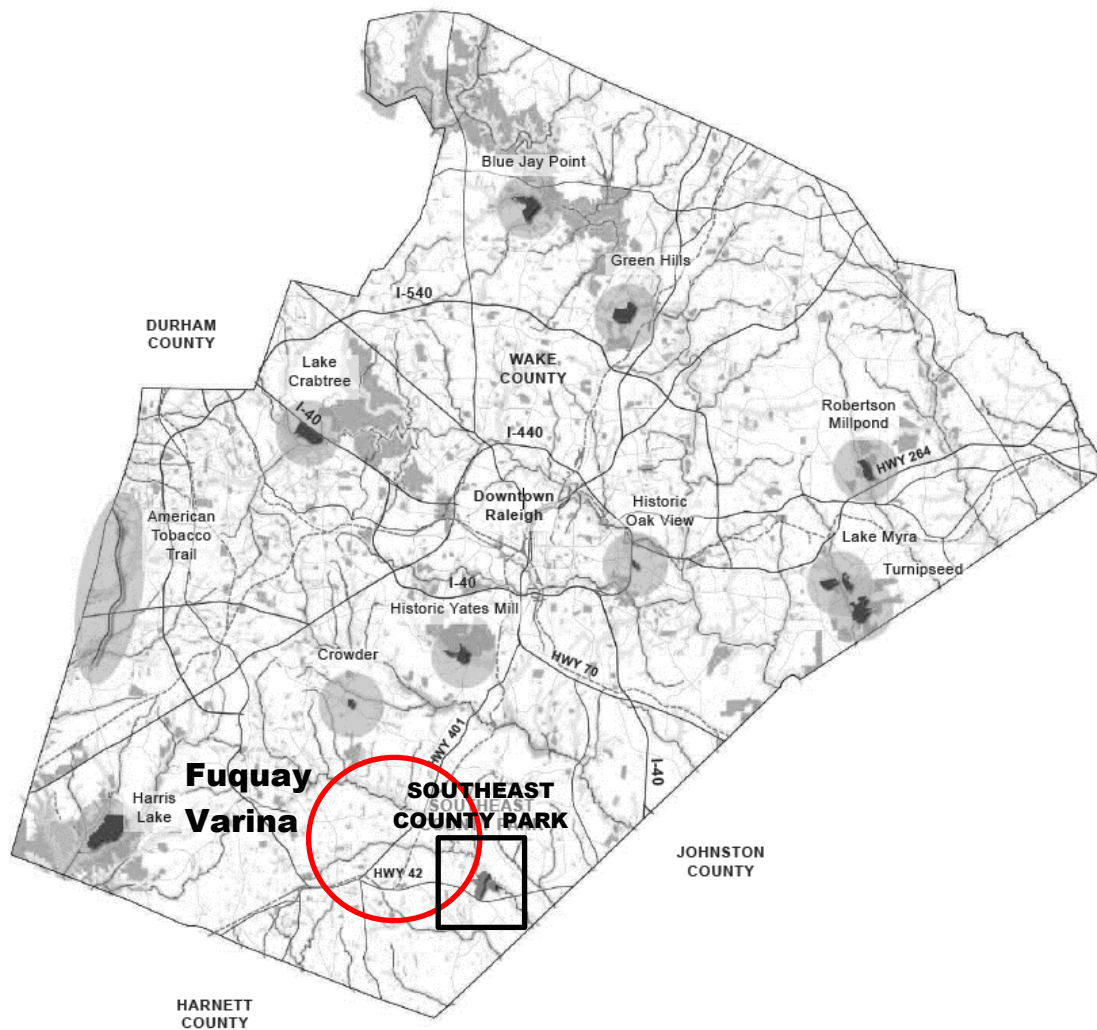
Board Goal: Growth and Sustainability GS1: Implement a comprehensive approach for preserving open space and developing parks and greenways to address gaps, leverage opportunities and resources, and enhance collaboration with municipal partners.

Fiscal Impact: After this fall's bond sale, a future action will appropriate additional funding for continuing the design of the project. Existing funds in the Park CIP are sufficient to cover design until the bond sale. These future funds would come from the PGROS Bonds which the County anticipates selling in October 2019. The Schematic Design will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Upon approval, additional design funds will be requested to complete the design, permitting and bidding phases of the project.

Additional Information:

Wake County's 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet need for County Park facilities and services in southeastern Wake County. In 2004, the County allocated the capital funds to begin the acquisition of land in that part of the County for a

County Park. The identified park site is along Middle Creek in an area of unique topography, with significant wetlands and wildlife habitat. Since 2004, the County has acquired multiple tracts totaling over 300 acres for the park.



At its January 7, 2019 meeting the Board of Commissioners made the development of this park its number one priority project from the recently passed 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation, and Open Space (PGROS) bond.

Surface 678, P.A. was selected as the landscape architectural firm and lead design consultant to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan for the future development of Southeast County Park. Throughout a 14-month process, the team gathered input from a broad range of perspectives including those identified in the Project Core Team, potential partners, stakeholders, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, municipalities and the community. This integrative public process produced a detailed site analysis, explored opportunities and constraints, engaged stakeholders and end users, collected input from the public and drew excitement from the local community. The end vision for the Southeast Park Master Plan was to offer a unique experience that supports the recreational needs of growing communities while strengthening the natural, cultural and historical resources of the land. The Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee has

reviewed the Master Plan and voted unanimously to recommend its forwarding to the Board of Commissioners for adoption.

As a part of the master plan process, creating a new name for the park became an important focus. Wake County typically has more descriptive names for its park facilities than compass points and from the earliest public meetings residents made suggestions as to what a more descriptive name could be. After reviewing several dozen suggestions, the name Beech Bluff County Park is recommended by staff.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Southeast County Park Master Plan Executive Summary