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# Executive Summary

The Town of Rolesville, a community that maintains and celebrates its small town heritage and character as it enters the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, has prepared this Open Space and Greenways Master Plan in order to protect the natural and cultural resources that community residents value most. There are three principal goals of the plan: 1) identify parcels and corridors of land that are in need of protection and conservation measures; 2) establish a comprehensive approach that will link greenspace lands and corridors to residential, commercial, institutional and central business areas of the community; and 3) to define a concise set of strategies for protecting and conserving these corridors and at the same time developing public use facilities that would provide residents with access to these lands and corridors.

By working towards the goals presented above, greenways and open space will serve to protect stream corridors and their floodplains from degradation due to land use development and poor land management practices. Greenways and open space will serve as valuable components of the park and recreation system, linking residents to popular outdoor resources, including neighborhood and community parks. Greenways will also serve as transportation routes for close-to-home and close-to-work travel, providing residents with a choice for how they complete short-distance trips.

Incorporating public participation was central to the process for producing this Plan. The community was actively engaged through meetings with stakeholders, Town staff, and the general public. Two evening open house type meetings were held to gather community input and display working maps of the community. The input and feedback received from the groups mentioned above were combined to craft the recommendations contained within this Plan. Also incorporated into the process was field research and GIS (Geographic Information System) analysis.

As a result of community meetings, staff and stakeholder comments it is recommended that the Town of Rolesville supplement its existing park system with the following parks and open space acquisitions. These acquisition recommendations are broadly defined within this plan to cover geographical areas of the community which were agreed upon throughout the participatory planning process.

## Purpose

## Process

## Key Recommendations

- First - The Town purchase the Main Street park as the first “satellite park and develop this park for passive use, active use, and to provide a greenway terminus.
- Second - We envision the development of a “central park” to include the current Rolesville Park and surrounding land.
- Third - Establish a joint partnership with the Town of Wake Forest in the development of the second “satellite” park, a large community park in the northwest quadrant of Rolesville.
- Fourth - Establish six other “satellite” parks and one natural area park for passive recreation and greenway accessibility.

It is envisioned that these future parks will serve multiple purposes; including active and passive recreation, historical preservation, protection of water quality, flood plain management, and environmental education.

Additionally, this Plan advocates for the protection and conservation of the primary streams of Rolesville (Harris Creek, Sanford Creek, Tom’s Creek, Buffalo Creek, Perry Creek, and Cedar Fork Creek). Finally, it is important to conserve and protect the small town character of Rolesville by enhancing the main community thoroughfares (Main Street, Young Street, Rogers Road, Chalk Road, Quarry Road, Burlington Mills Road, Jonesville Road, and the Highway 401 Bypass Corridor).

## Phasing

Because of the expense, private property issues, and comprehensive nature of this effort a phasing program is required for successful implementation. The Rolesville Open Space and Greenway System can be broken down into three primary phases of future development in order to be executed in a manageable manner. Phase One focuses on the existing infrastructure and planned projects. The first focus is on the purchase and development of the Main Street Park. Second, establish stream buffer zones on the six stream corridors. The third focus is on the implementation of scenic road corridor designations for the eight community thoroughfares and the establishment of bike routes on Main Street, Rogers Road, Chalk Road, Jonesville Road, and Quarry Road. The fourth focus is to establish the Main Street Trail thru development of the pedestrian and bicycle facilities and a beautification program.

Phase Two will expand the current Rolesville Park with the inclusion of Parker Pond and land affiliated with the planned development to the south to form the Rolesville “central” park. In addition, the Harris Creek Greenway Trail, Granatic Rock Greenway Trail and a Nature Loop Trail will be developed along the two branches of Harris Creek. As a final location

for the 401 Bypass is agreed on, the planning and development of the Bypass Greenway Trail and underpasses should be underway.

Phase Three contains the development of the Sanford Creek Greenway Trail and the development of the remaining seven “satellite” parks and the Natural Area Park.

## Funding

It is estimated that implementing the recommendations of the Phase One plan will cost \$800,000. The town will need to work in partnership with outside agents to fund greenway implementation. There are a variety of funding sources that Rolesville can tap into for assistance in bringing the Open Space and Greenway system into being. The federal government funding source that holds the most promise for greenway funding is the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Grant recipients are capable of receiving up to an 80 percent match for approved projects. Additional federal funding opportunities are available for community development, land and water conservation, and watershed protection – all of which are positively impacted by greenway development. The State of North Carolina also has a variety of funding source possibilities.

Greenways and open space preservation meet the objectives established by a host state departments and divisions. Funding may be sought from programs administered by the Department of Transportation, Division of Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Resources Commission, Department of Corrections, and the Division of Water Resources. There are also funding options that can be pursued locally. Most notably there is money available from a Wake County Open Space Bond that passed in November of 2000. Applying for this money is competitive, but this Plan demonstrates that Rolesville is prepared to receive funds for open space preservation. One possibility that would enable Rolesville to raise funds for the greenway and open system would be to create a Rolesville Greenway Trust Fund as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. The Trust Fund would be able to advocate, promote, and encourage greenway development, organize volunteers to assist with implementation and management, sponsor greenway events, and provide an outlet for donations intended specifically for greenway development projects.