

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Greenways Commission  
Christine S. Berndt, Chair

SUBJECT: Chapel Hill Parks and Trails Assessment Recommendations

DATE: September 23, 2009

The Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to forward the following recommendations to the Council related to the *Chapel Hill Parks and Trails Assessment*:

The Commission believes that the recent assessment shows that the Town's park and trail system has suffered from a lack of both routine maintenance and needed renovation for many years. There is a major problem with the repair, replacement, and maintenance of facilities. The problems are greatest in the Town's park system, which has several parks that are more than 30 years old. The Town's trail system is in better condition because it has been in existence for less time. However, problems, some of which are severe, are beginning to appear in the greenway system as well. We recommend the Council consider developing a reserve of funds for the repair and replacement of existing facilities.

When undertaking new facility development, we recommend the Council put reserves into the budget dedicated to that facility at the start of planning, and include a maintenance and repair plan at the start as well so that the facility is sustainable over time.

The Commission believes that the Council's goal of building a sustainable community should include the development of a financial plan to address the current, extensive backlog of renovations needed to bring the Town's trails and parks back to a reasonable standard of repair. This financial plan should deal with the ongoing need for repair, replacement, and maintenance of facilities.

We recommend the Council do an assessment of the magnitude of the cost needed to bring all the parks, greenways, and trails up to standard and then to maintain them.

Present: Christine Berndt (Chair), Mary Blake (Vice Chair), Roger Badrock, Lindsey Hoffer, Joseph Lowman, and David Tuttle. A quorum was present.