

MEMORANDUM

To: Michael Nelson, Mayor, Town of Carrboro
Carrboro Board of Aldermen

Kevin Foy, Mayor, Town of Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill Town Council

Joe Phelps, Mayor, Town of Hillsborough
Hillsborough Board of Commissioners

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor, City of Mebane
Mebane City Council

Moses Carey, Jr., Chair of the Board of Commissioners
Orange County Board of Commissioners

From: Alice Gordon, Chair
Intergovernmental Parks Work Group (IPWG)

Date: June 14, 2005

Re: Proposed Countywide Parks and Greenways Coordination Document

On May 25th, the Intergovernmental Parks (IP) Work Group discussed the status of parks plans in the different jurisdictions. As you probably recall, the Work Group was reconstituted in 2004 to continue providing a mechanism for sharing of information and coordination of parks efforts. There are 17 members on the Work Group, including elected officials and advisory board members from each jurisdiction.

As part of this discussion, the Work Group felt that it would be beneficial to create a coordination document that combines the existing parks plans of each jurisdiction into one brief document, which would also include maps of each individual parks plan and a master overlay map showing the plans for all Towns and County together. This would build on the efforts undertaken in 1999 with the Joint Master Recreation and Parks Work Group Report.

To be clear, this concept *would not propose to create a new Countywide plan*, but rather to *coordinate the existing plans* from each jurisdiction. It was felt that the resultant product would prove to be a useful tool - to allow a glimpse of all parks plans at one time - and would enable elected officials, parks planners and citizens to see how these plans fit together and perhaps identify current or future gaps or potential duplication. In conjunction with this, the existing inventory of facilities would be updated as a table attachment.

Attachment 1 serves to provide additional detail about this idea. It was approved by the IPWG on May 25, 2005.

The IP Work Group would request that each elected board consider authorizing the IP Work Group and relevant staff from each jurisdiction to undertake the compilation of this document over the next several months. It is expected that the document would use existing text and language from the jurisdictional plans where possible, and that it would be concise in nature. If this is agreeable, staffs would report back on a timeline for accomplishing this task.

The IP Work Group would be glad to undertake this task, under its charge to coordinate and offer opportunities for information-sharing about parks and recreation in the County. Approval of the resolution in Attachment 2 would allow the Work Group to proceed. The Work Group will be glad to expand on these ideas if needed, and looks forward to your response. Please forward responses to David Stancil, Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation Director, dstancil@co.orange.nc.us.

Copies: Cal Horton, Chapel Hill Town Manager
 John Link, County Manager
 Eric Peterson, Hillsborough Town Manager
 Steve Stewart, Carrboro Town Manager
 Robert Wilson, Mebane City Manager

Proposed Countywide Parks and Greenways Coordination Document

Each of the local governments in Orange County has a parks plan of its own, addressing the facilities and future plans of each jurisdiction. Some of the plans have been in existence for many years, some are new and updated, and others are in the midst of being updated.

A document and set of maps that tied together the different plans into one source would be a useful tool to parks planners, elected officials and interested citizens – to see what parks exist, where they are located, and what future parks are planned. It could also identify places where there are “gaps” between the plans, or areas of possible future duplication for further discussion by the jurisdiction(s) in question. This document could be a relatively brief “user-friendly” publication.

The purpose of this document would be to coordinate and combine the existing plans into one “seamless” document/map, and not to alter the plans, or develop a new countywide plan.

Possible Outline

1. Introduction / Rationale
2. Status of Park Plans
3. The Jurisdictional Parks Plans
 - a. Carrboro
 - b. Chapel Hill
 - c. Hillsborough
 - d. Mebane
 - e. Orange County
4. Countywide Map of Existing Parks, Greenways and Open Space
5. Countywide Map of Planned Future Parks, Greenways and Open Space
6. Coordination and Future Updates
7. Conclusion

A Resolution Asking the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group to Work on a Countywide Parks and Greenways Coordination Document

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group was reconstituted by the jurisdictions within Orange County in 2004, with a charge to further continue the collaboration and coordination of parks planning within Orange County, and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group has identified a need for a concise document, with maps that illustrate each jurisdiction's parks and greenways plans, and

WHEREAS, such a document and maps would enable the public, elected officials and parks planners to see, at a glance, how the different plans fit together and where gaps may exist, and

WHEREAS, the creation of this document would not serve to supersede any existing plans but rather serve to pull these plans together as a tool for future evaluation and planning:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by (the relevant jurisdiction) that the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group is authorized to undertake preparation of the Countywide Parks and Greenways Coordination Document, as outlined in further detail in Attachment 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (the relevant staffs from each jurisdiction that participate in the Work Group) be authorized to participate in this effort.

This the __ day of ____, 2005

WITNESS:

