

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Report on Public Input Sessions
2007 Facility Needs Assessment
Henderson County Parks and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Summary Tabulation of Public Input Comments
2. List of Public Input Comments

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: This Agenda Item is to provide a preliminary status report on the 2007 Facility Needs Assessment process for Parks and Recreation: in particular, the results of the five Public Input Sessions. The public input will be evaluated by the Advisory Board in the development of its recommendation.

The final report and recommendation is scheduled to be presented at the December 3rd Board of Commissioners meeting.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: No action requested.

Suggested Motion: n/a

Data Summary from Public Input Sessions
 2007 Facility Needs Assessment
 Henderson County Parks and Recreation

#	Comment Subject	Number
1	Soccer	28
2	Dog Park	24
3	Swimming Pool	24
4	Greenways	17
5	More / Dedicated Funding	10
6	Greenspace	9
7	Recreation Center	8
7	Tennis (scheduling problems)	8
8	Etowah Park (maintenance)	5
8	Tuxedo Park	5
9	East Flat Rock Park (maintenance)	4
9	Edneyville Park Project	4
10	No User Fees	2
11	Full Size Baseball Field	1
11	Handicapped Access to Playgrounds	1
11	Jackson Park (maintenance)	1
11	Recreation Website	1
11	Restrict Tobacco Use	1

This is a simple, nonscientific tabulation of the comments from the
 Public Input Sessions for the Facility Needs Assessment

**Henderson County Parks and Recreation
2007 Facility Needs Assessment
Public Input Meeting Comments**

**North Henderson High School
Tuesday, August 28, 2007**

1. Soccer coach, soccer facilities are declining, need complex with multi-use fields (field turf fields), lighted, location should be centralized in County
2. Greenways, trails and park system, linear parks, get from home to park w/out car, traffic / streets do not provide good opportunities for non-vehicle transportation.
3. Edneyville Park
4. Indoor Recreation Center, Multi-purpose, currently using public school gym's which limit use / times, multi-court, pool, volleyball, basketball
5. Flood plain area to solve greenway problems, private sector help. Edneyville Community Center, diversity of users is important, co-locating facilities on school campuses, Community Centers are important because of difficulties from traffic and density
6. Swimmer, need pool facility, share YMCA with all schools and pool users, have to practice at night (school age), have to pay for school sport due to fee from YMCA, YMCA only has five lanes
7. Swimming for Rehabilitation, need pool facility, swimming year round, swimming is a lifetime sport, important to children, elder services, youth sport, after school care
8. Tennis & birding, Jackson Park is excellent facility for birding, do not disturb birding opportunities at JP, leave some natural habit
9. Edneyville Park, enclosed gym for year round activities, money is the problem, display Edneyville Park design
10. Connecting trails, soccer
11. Soccer, 1000+ kids per year w/ rec (does not include other leagues, could be over 2000+ users) and challenge, facilities are not good, liability to play on our fields, need a complex with multiple fields, Associations funds most of programs, similar to Asheville's complex, grants available, tournaments will add to tourism, 2009 budget for complex but need it sooner. Need dedicated soccer facilities (sharing with school's is not practical)
12. Soccer, fields are in horrible condition, embarrassing to host travel team from other areas, need complex

13. Dodge ball, basketball camps, indoor soccer (futsal), Jackson Park fields are the same now as 20 years ago, artificial turf fields at high schools in lieu of complex, indoor recreation center. Practice at schools.
14. HC soccer field cause injury, no real fields, need fields
15. Soccer fields at Jackson Park are not adequate, neighboring Counties have much better fields and recreation opportunities, greenspace, injuries from playing soccer on JP fields.
16. Etowah Lions Club, Etowah Park, on going project to enhance park, long term commitment, County does not follow up on projects, existing soccer field needs seeding and to be lighted, adult fitness trails, fitness stations (heavily utilized), use of park is 50% adult – 50% youth, the park's facilities need to be used more, lights on tennis court
17. New soccer fields, injuries from existing fields, need soccer complex, not a level playing field at JP, holes and bumps on field, soccer is as important as football and baseball, lack of grass on fields cause injuries, Can we please have new soccer fields.
18. Swimming, need pool facility, 5 teams share facility with only 5 lanes, crowded practice, pool facility is for all ages and levels of fitness
19. Edneyville Community Center Association, pool in 3rd phase of park plan, pool is important for adult activities, facilities for seniors.
20. L. Patterson Pool is available to public but private pool.
21. More funding for recreation. Dedicated funding source.
22. Natural turf done correctly is as good as artificial
23. Rails to Trails, Horseshoe to Brevard (??), multi-use.

**East Henderson High School
Tuesday, September 11, 2007**

1. indoor swimming facility, high school teams, county use, referendum for facilities, swimming lessons for youth
2. submitted article on birding from Times News, need for habitat, preserve habitat for walking/birding
3. satellite tennis tournament, Jackson Park good venue for event, good source of money for community(economic impact), lots of senior tennis players, model after other communities
4. urge concept of park, gardens, walking for pleasure, Greenways, concept around Jackson Park, connecting to south side development, soccer complex

5. dog park, allows off leash running for dogs, playing field at East Flat Rock Park full of rocks and sticks (under used) field needs improvements
6. park in Tuxedo area, field at East Flat Rock Park needs grading, improving, supports East Flat Rock Park, erosion control (preventative maintenance), safety issue for players (Lax, soccer) with regards to playing field at EFRP
7. raise attitude in terms of tennis, needs for tennis after school, tennis for East and Hendersonville High Schools, keep pressure on commissioners for courts at East and HHS, teach tennis to kids on public courts
8. more money for soccer fields, large recreation center with multiple facilities, walking trails, rails trails, wave pool, make recreation a destination item, return on investment for money put in, worth it, think BIG and more attractive
9. dog park, fenced area for dogs to play, parts of park for dogs to play
10. growing needs of tennis, CTA supports, provides materials, improve scheduling of courts, more courts or courts at high schools, schools to 5:45pm, league tennis 6:00pm, limited maintenance needed for courts
11. multi handicapped access to playgrounds, make playgrounds accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. "Boundless Playgrounds" which allow access, Barrier Free Playgrounds, www.boundlessplaygrounds.org, have one in Shelby, NC
12. EFR field needs improvement, erosion on trails needs controlling, lights on walking trails, thanks for bus service
13. supports a dog park, bicycle/walking trail, use railways (Rails to Trails) that are not used for walking/biking
14. wants dog park to allow dogs to run, pond/water for dogs to swim, fenced in area for dogs
15. dog park, water available for dogs, allow area for off leash running/walking
16. dog park, 2-3 acre dog park, low cost to construct and maintain,
17. EFR small park, money is problem, parks and recreation needs money, ball field unlevel, parking issue when organized sports at EFR, erosion problem, do it right first time, clear brush at back area, tennis court, fitness trail, access mat for playground, wants grant for EFR park (matching funds available), properly planned parks, need park in Tuxedo
18. modest resources for parks, wants more money set aside for parks, communication, schools supporting recreation center that meets needs swimming, tennis courts, independent park specific budgets, repair scoreboards at Etowah Park,
19. aquatic center, soccer fields, fine facilities like other areas, revamp Jackson Park and make a show piece again

West Henderson High School
Tuesday, September 18, 2007

1. Issues with USTA and High School tennis with regards to schedules. Coordinate scheduling of tennis courts with home matches and USTA matches. On High School tennis practice nights allow USTA to use at 5:45pm.
2. Dog park, open area with water, shade, benches and fence for dogs to socialize.
3. Swimming pool, cost of swimming programs (make affordable), place to teach swimming, land transfer tax may be way to fund
4. Keep green spaces we have, need to add and continue growth of open spaces, need for a dog park (allow off leash socializing for dogs)
5. Need for a swimming pool (high school programs), soccer fields to accommodate growth, high pressure of use at Jackson Park, availability of sports for all social classes, advocate pools and soccer fields
6. Dog park, fenced area with water, benches, area for people to meet and socialize
7. User fees for Senior Softball, user fees impact possible participation, build soccer fields (good for children) provides opportunity to be a part of team and experience success, transfer tax not a consistent source of revenue (caution depending on just this source) have a more stable funding source
8. Issue with user fees going to general fund, Etowah Park - issue with restrooms during season and tournaments, reseal and paint basketball court, problem with tree roots on trail, score boards trenched down center of field repair so can be used, need help to upgrade facilities, Help make soccer field at Etowah, add lights to tennis courts at Etowah Park.
9. Etowah Park – children’s playground needs expanding, adult fitness center along walking trail, expansion to create opportunities for adults and children to have organized programs
10. Planned or projects not completed, soccer field at Etowah Park final grading, fertilize, seeding, tennis courts need lights, need completion of projects, under funded as far as recreation
11. Inadequate funding for recreation, need parks at a higher level for funding, specific budgets for parks, parks and recreation very low priority needs to be elevated to a higher concern
12. Need for a swim program, need for increase of soccer fields, seeing what other counties have, need more money for recreation facilities
13. Coordination of USTA schedules and school teams
14. Work to coordinate tennis programs

15. Dog park, many seniors own dogs, place to take dogs to run free
16. Need information on county web site, literature for programs, community centers are lacking, schools to use as community centers 7pm-11pm week nights for P & R, on weekends too, develop partnership between school board and P & R. Like to see trail network in county, Fletcher to Flat Rock, Code of Ethics for sport groups, players, coaches, etc. Safe environment for kids, Where is the information? Plan for cultural activities and development of community
17. Need a dog parks and more nature trails and areas to walk
18. Soccer and Pools, increased funding, think of future, advocate for sports complex that meet needs, soccer complex that accommodates all needs, pools, dogs parks, trails, etc.
19. Not much money allocated to recreation, reallocate money to build soccer fields, pools, etc. too much emphasis on volunteers, county should do some of things done by volunteers
20. Soccer fields are not adequate, economics of soccer tournaments, impact on community as far as income generated by tourism and overnight stays, Good soccer complex would achieve this
21. Not enough facilities for diving teams, swimming pool that has diving area
22. Swim team – pool
23. Swimming programs, indoor/outdoor pool, rehab, workouts in pools, need to teach swimming, family event, water safety training in schools, residents deserve year round swimming facilities
24. pool, for all ages, funding lacking, fix restrooms
25. swimming needs a pool, benefits old and young, important to community
26. paying for training facilities for swimming/diving teams, Pay to Play concern, over crowding at YMCA when used for high school teams (1 hour for practice), need programs for swimming and to do that need pool.
27. Issues of travel to facilities outside of our area, concern with user fees, need recreation center for seniors and others.

**Hendersonville High School
Tuesday, September 25, 2007**

1. Tobacco Policy at parks, reduce exposure to, designated areas for use
2. Dog park, for socializing dogs, place dogs to run off leash, area for dogs to chase disks, tennis balls

3. Artificial turf at high schools, open school resources for public use after school hours, build stadium for schools at central complex, indoor courts for basketball, futsal
4. Separate soccer complex, loss of economic impact to Henderson County with tournaments hosted in other areas,
5. Greenways, linear parks for multiple uses, walking, biking, connecting parks/residential areas with Greenways, transportation option, DOT sources of funding, positive economic benefits, Rail to Trails (H'ville to Brevard)
6. Supports Greenways, taking care of current facilities, worn turf, make parks a jewel for county
7. Preserve birding habitat at Jackson Park, Jackson Park nationally known spot for birding, Trails and Greenways good for birding
8. Some area for dogs to run off leash, fenced in, water, and rules
9. Facilities need to be improved, concern with soccer fields, lack of a quality field, change perception of community as a retirement community, activism toward soccer, Greenways as a transportation solution, park in Green River area, ease of access to park facilities to reduce travel by cars
10. Support need for soccer fields/soccer complex, fields that allow player development, multiple fields, current fields in terrible shape, safety issue and poor reflection on community, soccer complex will allow tournaments that attract economic benefits to community (soccer complex is an area with several fields minimum 4, restrooms, ample parking, concessions, lighting)
11. Dog park, separate areas for small (15 lbs max) and large dogs, water, fenced, dogs with up to date shots,
12. Dog recreation area, fenced in area, Wisconsin has a guide for dog parks (submitted a copy), resources to maintain dog park
13. Soccer complex, sport for all ages and sizes, helps with targeting health issues- obesity,
14. Swimming pool, for high schools, life time sport, aquatics complex, Mega Center – with lots of facilities, figure in maintenance, limited funding for parks and library (4%) in HC, county needs more money put into recreation, need more than 1 million dollar budget
15. Dog park, teach dogs to be sociable
16. Greenways, need approach to create, benefits all, bike, walk, Soccer fields are a need, New ways to revitalize current fields (grass), Parks and Rec does not have full size baseball field 90ft bases and 360ft (dead center) 300ft down baselines

17. dog park (rename) for humans to get out, be active, mission may not be for animals but rather people to get out,
18. “but if not enough money” – hope there will be dedicated funds, march on commissioners
19. www.strikerssoccer.com (example) – build all out stadium, coordinate agencies, Committees for groups, have solutions that are presented with issues raised

**Henderson County Public Library
Tuesday, October 2, 2007**

1. Park in the Green River Community, revisit the former Tuxedo School property issue, land of former school is available, have newly formed association representing the community
2. Swimming facility, examples like Rock Hill, SC and Murphy and Franklin. Recreation Center with multiple facilities, swimming facility that can/would be used for school programs and recreation, cover the entire population with regards to recreation, commissioners provide some money for such a facility
3. Consider ways for people to get around in county, use Greenways, paths, bike trails, alternate ways of getting around other than a car, consider grants that can be received with partnerships with different groups within the community
4. Dogs park, wants a place for dogs to run off a leash, one place safe and secure for dogs to enjoy themselves, fenced area
5. Dog park, nice big space for small and big dogs, not allow dogs that are not spade and neutered
6. Need for Green Space, open areas, current areas/parks showing wear, have realtors assist in locating ponds, lakes for public parks, think of trees, motives to keep areas from being paved,
7. Soccer fastest growing sport, facilities for sport non-existent in community, swimming and physical recreation facilities (PEAC group, made a study, BRCC, administered by YMCA), multi use facilities that would enhance community
8. Dog park, lives in Etowah, believes there is a space for such a facility
9. Dog facility for exercise and dog socialization, dog park
10. Dog park, need more money allocated for parks, least expensive facility, willing to volunteer
11. Multi use and multi purpose recreation facility (swimming pool, etc.), facility that brings all into one place, supports idea of property transfer tax or property tax increase to fund facilities, lobby in community to get funds raised for facilities

12. Budget too small in community, lack of soccer facilities, improve current facilities, create new facilities for sport, supports need for public swimming facilities
13. Looking for more areas for parks, open areas, keep asking, Open areas, non-competitive sports areas, more walking trails, more passive recreation facilities, Greenways for connecting areas, linear parks, (small area plan meetings, Designing our Future)
14. Advocating for soccer, Hispanic players, competitive players, youth, need improvements to fields, well maintained multi-use facilities that accommodates soccer, Frisbee golf, lacrosse, Use current facilities for multi use, keep areas open for use (baseball fields)
15. Plug for linear parks, parks that build a stronger community, bike trails and walk ways that all can use, opportunities that allow for family recreation together
16. Need a recreation center, including meeting rooms, look at UNCA in Asheville as an example, add artificial turf to high schools, need to lobby for share of funds
17. Dog park advocate, area for off leash dog play, safe place for animals, need as a result of compact/cluster housing, well maintained space with rules, fund with sponsors, ideal park should have 2-4 acres, 4-6 ft tall, small/large areas, safe parking, two gates, benches, wheel chair friendly, water, shade
18. Need for soccer complex, large group of children , adults playing, behind other areas of community, complex good for economy, private support for such a facility, county needs to take a lead
19. Consider access or facilities to get into wetland area across from MLK (Four Seasons swamp). Birding, photography purposes
20. Soccer fit enough for tournaments from economic impact stand point hotels, restaurants, Green River – kayaking and paddling, need parking and access to Game lands areas, proper access to river, support the current parking area, people come to area for recreation, develop Plan that attracts tourism and people to spend money
21. Need for a park in Tuxedo community, (common open space), swimming facility with all entities (all with a stake holders), time to set land aside as natural park areas (work on partnerships, conservation groups)
22. Connect green spaces/parks with rails to trails, greenways, paths, dedicated trails for non motorized travel, more open natural spaces, preserve now, have developers set land aside (open space)
23. need green spaces preserved- Savannah, GA, thanks for work that being done, need to let commissioners know that recreation, green space, facilities are important (need more than funding), all use open areas, lobby for substantial funds for recreation, have one large fund raiser a year for recreation- people want to come to our area, have a referendum for parks- organize, lobby, attend meetings for your cause

Comments received via email

1. The County needs dog parks (an enclosed area) at both Jackson and Etowah. Etowah is used by walkers with and without dogs daily while the remaining facilities are seldom used except during Little League season. Dogs need to socialize and burn off energy which cannot be accomplished while walking on a leash. The Etowah area has a high percentage of retired families with pets that needs this facility. A dog park could be in the field to the left of the ball diamonds at very little expense. Please give this proposal serious consideration in your plans for the future.
2. Dear Henderson County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, I would like to thank you for receiving input from the community on what we feel like our community needs to have in place for recreational purposes. I would like to request a 25 meter enclosed swimming facility that could be used by local competitive swim teams and high school swim teams (others could use it as well) to practice and host meets. The local facilities are heavily used by the public or facility members and swim team practice space is limited and often expensive. If you look at the big picture, there are soccer fields and ball fields everywhere you look but no public pool for the local swim teams. I am not the most knowledgeable person to speak on this topic and can't give you the full history of swimming in Henderson County but I can definitely see the need for an enclosed public pool that can be used by the high school swim teams and local swim teams. Please support them by providing a facility. I also see the need for improved soccer fields from the high school level all the way to the six year old level. The fields are very rough and over used. Funds should be allocated to make improvements on these fields just like the baseball and softball fields. They sure get lots of money and attention (new lights, graded frequently...). Why can the soccer fields get the same attention? Again, thank you for listening to the public. In summary, we need a 25 meter enclosed swimming facility immediately and the soccer fields could certainly use some tender loving care.