



Chantilly Neighborhood Association

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June 4, 2017

Dear Commissioners Ella B. Scarborough, Chair, At-Large,
and Jim Puckett, Vice chair

The Chantilly Neighborhood Association's (CNA) Board of Directors unanimously supports and requests you propose an amendment to the proposed fiscal year 2018 Mecklenburg County budget to fully fund all Parks and Recreation capital projects. CNA further supports a proposal by Greenways for Charlotte and the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Commission that Mecklenburg County establish a specific budget line-item for seven (\$7) to eight (\$8) million dollars, to renew annually, to establish plans for new greenway projects and acquire land needed for such projects.

We agree with our neighbors, the Plaza Midwood Neighborhood Association, that "Greenways require funding for planning as well as land acquisition. As our County continues to grow, land will only get more expensive. Currently, our county ranks very low compared to similar major metropolitan areas for access to parks including greenways. We have a terrific opportunity now to develop a connected Greenway system that will create recreation and transportation opportunities that would be the envy of the nation." We have also received messages of favorable support for this proposal from members of other center-city neighborhoods and neighbors through the county.

Fifty years ago, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg master plan for recreation recommended greenways "as logical natural elements useful in creating a sense of physical form and order within the city...." "The 1980 greenway master plan called for a 73-mile network of trails along 14 creek corridors." The 2008 Greenway master plan, adopted by the BOCC, had a ten-year goal "To construct 61.9 miles of new greenway trail by 2018, bringing the total miles of constructed greenway trail to 129. ¹" Unfortunately, due to both the 2008 recession and subsequent spending priorities, there are now only thirty-five (35) miles of developed greenways in Mecklenburg County.

¹ 2008 Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan
(<http://charmec.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Greenways/OpenGreenways/Documents/MPAppendix2.pdf>)

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Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners
Full Funding for Parks and Greenways

The Mecklenburg County metropolitan area is at a cross road of both the availability of land versus a population surge that is rapidly underway. Current park resources will become more strained without leadership and action to expand our parks and greenways.

Investment now in our greenways and parks will pay off in both property values and creating new recreational opportunities for tourists and citizens across Mecklenburg County. Greenways serve as an important urban ecological resource and terrific potential transportation alternatives for our rapidly growing county.

Therefore, the Board of the Chantilly Neighborhood Association unanimously supports full funding to complete the capital projects of the 2008 Park and Recreation master plan, and a proposal that the Board of County Commissioners dedicate a specific, annual budgetary line-item of \$7 to \$8 million in order to plan and build new, connected greenways throughout Mecklenburg County.

/s Allison Stunja, Secretary for the

Chantilly Neighborhood Association, Board of Directors

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Cc: Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners