

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

**MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 28, 2003**

**TITLE: Report: Greenway Planning**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES _ NO _X_</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. Staff Report and attachments</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Patricia McGuire – 918-7327

### PURPOSE

The 2003 Action Agenda Project list includes the task “Greenway Plan Update.” A report on this matter has been prepared for the Board of Aldermen. A resolution that accepts the report is recommended for the Board’s adoption.

### INFORMATION

The first reference to an open space network for the Town of Carrboro and other jurisdictions in the Triangle region dates to 1969 when the Research Triangle Regional Planning Commission presented the results of a multi-year planning effort. The plan included a Development Guide that focused, to a large degree, on the provision of open space to “facilitate the building of an excellent future.” The guide outlined a network of permanent open spaces that extended and diffused throughout the region and that were afforded status similar to networks for transportation and utilities, yet the network would include both connected and isolated components. The guide focused on two primary spines for “contiguous open space network” and those spines were the Neuse and the Cape Fear Rivers, but also relied heavily on the expectation that other areas would be needed to provide the “vital ingredient of continuity between the major areas.”

Carrboro is one of the smaller towns located within the Research Triangle region, yet it is marking its third decade of progressive land use planning. The Town has consistently enacted land use policies and regulations to ensure that new residential development incorporate natural areas for passive recreation and preservation. Open space requirements incorporated into the Town’s Land Use Ordinance in 1980 targeted certain natural areas for preservation, emphasizing the potential for contiguous tracts to ultimately create open space corridors. Throughout the 1980s, Town staff worked with developers to designate areas, generally along stream corridors, as open space that was offered to the Town for dedication in the course of Conditional Use Permit review.

With the development of a Master Parks and Recreation Plan in 1994, the major stream corridors associated with Bolin and Morgan Creeks were identified as the basis for a Town greenway system. In the 1995 revisions to the Land use Ordinance open space provisions that established the 40 percent requirement, these contiguous corridors were further designated for open space preservation. The Facilitated Small Area Plan for Carrboro, adopted in February 1999, expanded the area of interest for Town greenways to include the upper reaches of Bolin Creeks and its

tributaries. Amendments in 1999 enhanced corridor preservation through the mandate that primary conservation areas, including floodplains, stream buffers and steep slopes, if present must be included in the 40 percent open space set-aside. A discussion of these activities and the status of greenway planning in the Town is detailed in the attached staff report (*Attachment B*).

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Acceptance of the report carries with it no known fiscal impacts.

#### **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution accepting the report (*Attachment A*).