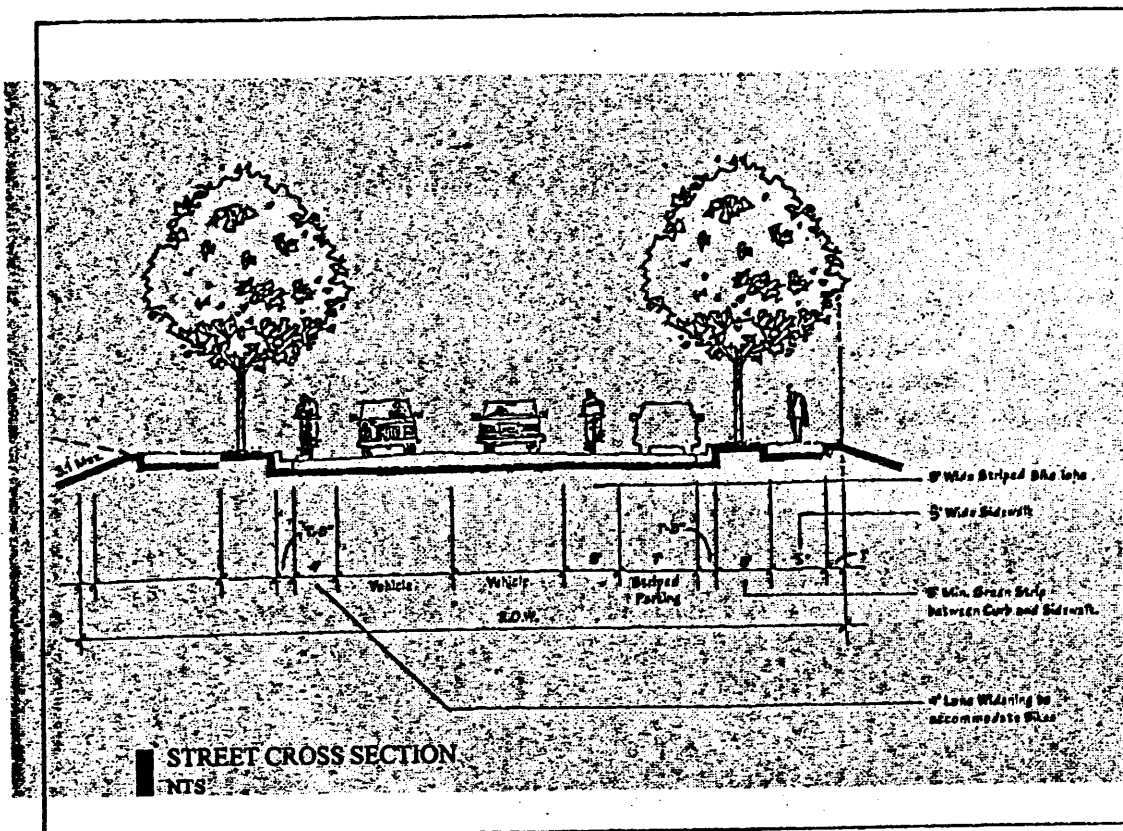


Detail 6: Cross section showing possible street trail design



Bollards (with central bollard down for maintenance access) and accessible ramp onto North/South Greenway at W. Markham Avenue

Part 7

DESIGN STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

The Design Standards and Guidelines section of the Master Plan provides a set of parameters for implementing a consistent physical character for Chapel Hill greenway system. The guidelines address the following design issues:

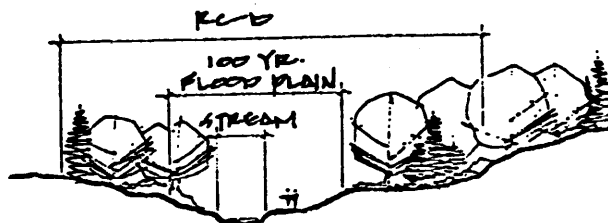
- Corridor Width Guidelines
- Trail Classifications
- Special Trail Needs
- Trail Locations
- Trail Amenities
- Parking Areas
- Accessibility
- Naming Trails
- Signage

Greenway design standards and guidelines can help elected officials, advisory board members, and staff make decisions involving the expenditure of public funds and the enhancement of public safety. Decisions related to amounts of land or easements to be purchased, the types of trails to construct, and the location of trails can be facilitated by incorporating standards and guidelines in the greenways planning and decision-making process.

Corridor Width Guidelines

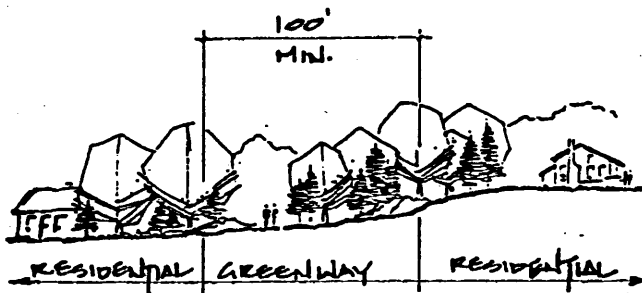
Greenway corridors in Chapel Hill vary in width according to the topography of the area, the amount of existing development, the existence of significant biological areas, and patterns of property ownership. The following guidelines are intended to balance the needs to preserve greenway corridors and connectors, provide enough land for trails when appropriate, and to provide privacy for existing residences.

The Town should make reasonable attempts to protect the following greenway corridors by restricting development, requiring greenway dedications, and purchasing land or easements.



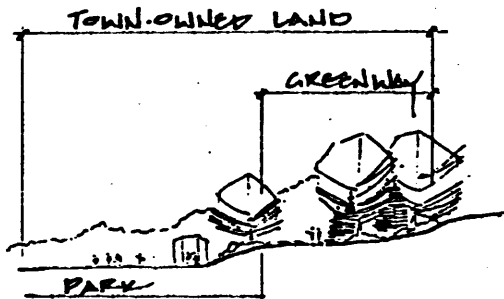
Stream Corridors:

Stream corridors may vary in width depending on the stream and the site specific characteristics of the land itself. Corridor widths should generally be as wide as can be acquired to help assure the privacy of adjacent property owners and the environmental quality of the site. Several factors which often contribute to increased corridor widths of stream-associated greenways include adjacent sanitary sewer easements, 100-year floodplain land and areas within the Town's Resource Conservation District.



Connector Trails:

Greenway connectors not located along streams should be a minimum of 100 feet in width, if possible. This width should allow for sufficient buffering between neighborhoods, placement of trails, and adequate area for the free movement of wildlife. Smaller corridor widths, however, may be necessary in order to create trail connections between lots in subdivisions.

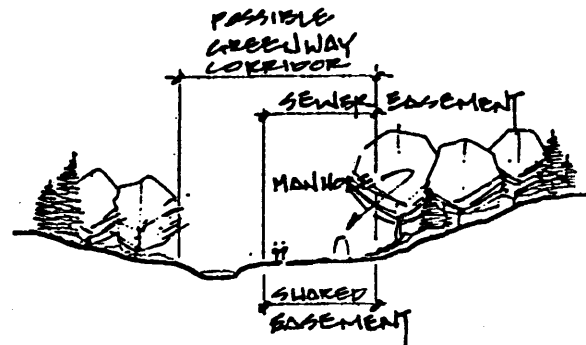


Greenways as Parks:

Wider greenways may be needed if the land is to be developed as a park. Parks require more land than is typically acquired for a linear greenway. Parks and greenways can share the same land, although the needs of the park may require additional lands outside of the greenway corridor.

Developed Areas:

Greenway corridors or connectors should not be used for trails within areas that are currently developed if placement of a greenway trail would severely impact the privacy of existing residences.



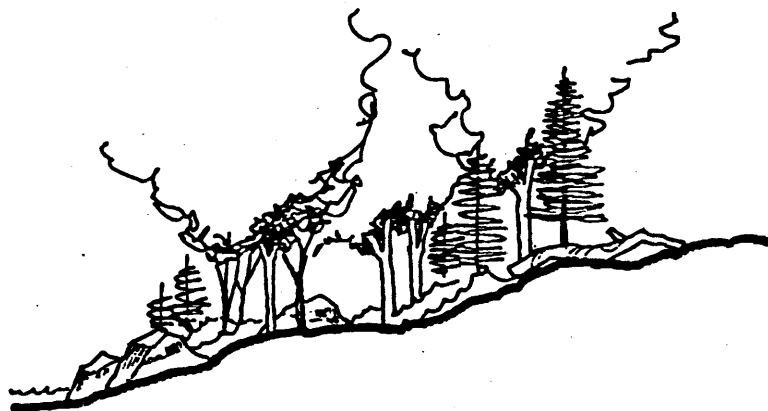
Utility Easements:

Pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle easements should be coupled with utility easements when possible.

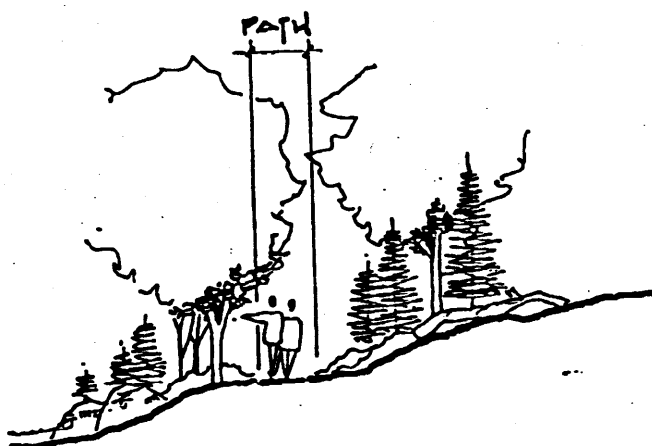
Trail Classifications

Trails proposed within the Chapel Hill Greenway System can range from primitive woodland paths designed for low intensity pedestrian travel to paved bike paths designed for bicycle and wheelchair use.

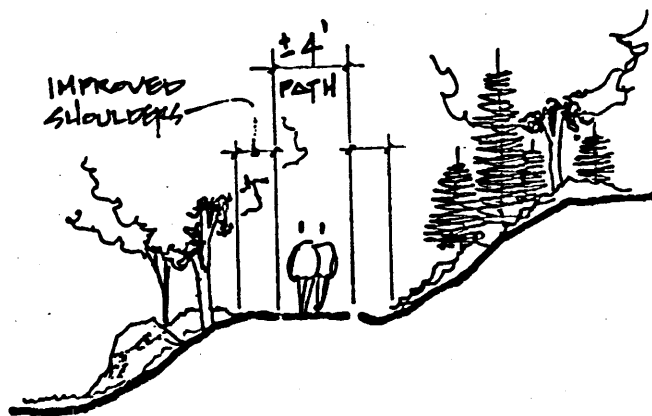
The following class system identifies different levels of trail development that were assigned to greenway segments in Part 4, "Strategic Planning". Essentially, it is a 6-level hierarchy of trail development ranging from unimproved greenways, to soft, natural surface trails, to paved trails of varying widths to accommodate different trail uses and intensity of use.



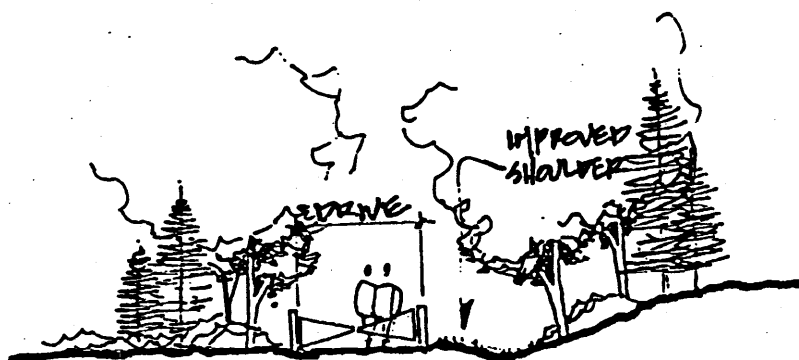
Class 1 Unimproved greenways lacking trails. No maintenance unless problems, such as diseased or dying trees on Town owned greenways, affect neighboring properties.



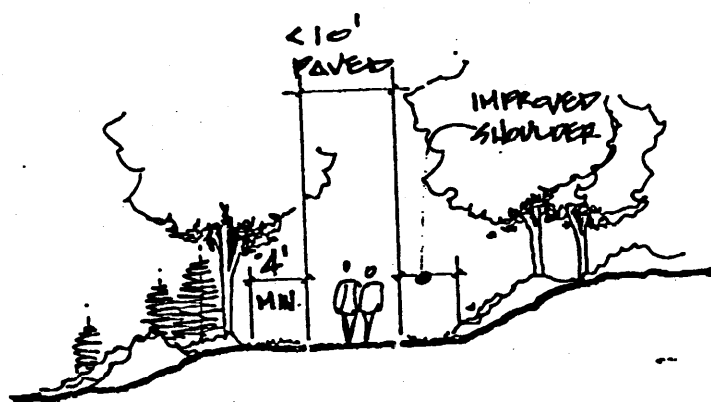
Class 2 Primitive trails, created by wildlife or citizens, not maintained by the Town.



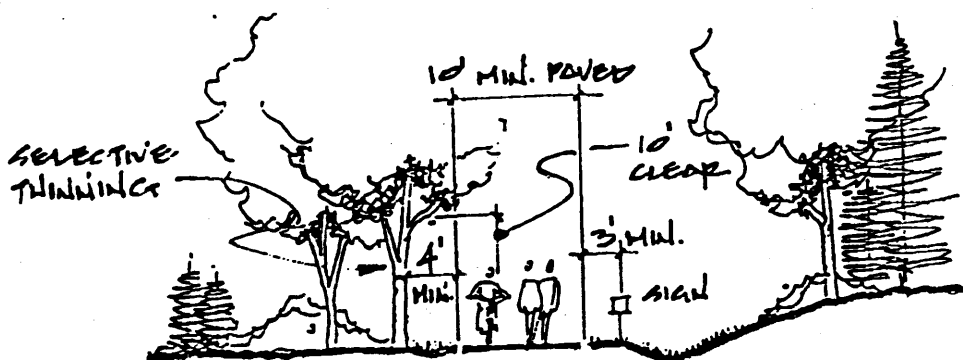
Class 3 Improved woodland trails generally with soft surface and minimal improvements. Surface is typically natural, but may have gravel or boardwalk sections to address erosion problems and wet areas. An important goal of the soft surface trails is to safely accommodate mountain bicycles. Specific trail design should address erosion problems likely to result from mountain bicycle use. Maintenance typically includes removal of litter, removal of fallen tree limbs and trees, repair of erosion damage, and bridging of wet areas.



Class 4 Unpaved access drive with gates or bollards to prevent casual vehicle use. Suitable for pedestrians or mountain bicycle use. This class is usually a road built for other purposes and used as a trail.



Class 5 Paved trail under 10 feet wide. This class of trail can be used to improve short sections of Class 3-4 trail suffering from severe erosion problems. This class can also be used for pedestrian only trails which are signed against bicycle use. However, in situations of difficult terrain, this class of trail can be employed for pedestrian and bicycle use, but only if signage is displayed to warn users of possible conflicts.



Class 6 Paved trail 10 feet in width or wider for mixed bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Short sections may be under 10 feet wide if difficult construction problems exist, however these should be well signed with adequate sight-distance in order to assure the safety of trail users.

The Town's goal for all its paved trails is to be compliant with AASHTO and ADA standards as much as is practicable. All Class 6 trails should be designed and constructed to the standards for off-road bicycle trails as published in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities" and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's, "Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines". The editions of these publications which are current at the time of trail construction should be used by the planning team. These guidelines address design standards for trail alignment, design speeds, paving widths and clearances, slope restrictions, bridge structures and safety railings.

Class 6 trails should be designed also to comply the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, where possible. In attempting to provide access to the greatest extent possible for the greatest number of people, the Town's Class 6 greenways will allow handicap, elderly and very young users to more fully utilize the trails.

Special Trail Needs

There are some special trail needs that may be considered by the Town for various reasons. Some uses such as hiking and mountain bicycling

may not be compatible on the same trail. Specialty trail needs should be addressed if funds, land, and public support are assured. Examples of special trail needs are listed below:

Mountain Bicycle Use

Class 3-4 trails should be designed for the use of mountain bicycles whenever possible. The extent of possible environmental damage by bicycle users should be considered on every project. Mountain bicycle use may have to be curtailed on occasion to allow natural regeneration of heavily eroded trails. Signs should be placed at all Class 3 and 4 trailheads requesting mountain bicycle users to yield to pedestrians and to refrain from using the trails in wet conditions.

Sidewalks and Public Streets

In some cases, trail connections will be on sidewalks and along public streets. In the event that off-street bicycle paths merge onto streets, provide appropriate signage and pavement markings to help safe merging. The provision of designated bicycle lanes is desirable. Where a public street provides a link in a pedestrian path, sidewalks should be provided where possible.

Interpretive Trails

Trails can meet many different needs including education. Many trails can be converted to dual recreational/educational use by placing interpretive signs and stations along the pathway.

Interpretive signage may identify or provide explanations of special natural features, geographic, historic or other points of interest. Interpretive trails should not be built in conjunction with trails that are anticipated to have moderate to heavy bicycle traffic.

Fitness Trails

Fitness trails have stations that are used for various exercises. Users often run from station-to-station in order to work a variety of muscle groups. These features can be incorporated into many existing trails. Fitness trails must be well maintained with pathways that are free of obstacles. The various fitness stations must be placed well off the actual trail. Fitness trails should not be built in conjunction with trails that are anticipated to have moderate to heavy bicycle traffic. It should be noted that public fitness trails, as a recreational amenity, have decreased in popularity over the past several years.

Measured Trails

Many individuals enjoy recreational walking and running. It is possible to measure sections of trails and to mark them for persons wishing to monitor their mileage. This type of activity is suitable on most trails, although, for fitness walking, the path surface should be relatively stable and free of obstacles.

Trail Locations

The location of trails within greenway corridors is of vital importance to greenways planners, trail users, and the citizens who must live and work in the vicinity of these trails. Greenway planners should consider the following trail location guidelines:

1. Trails should generally be located as far from residential structures as is reasonable in order to preserve privacy of nearby residents and the experience of trail users.
2. Trails of Class 5 or higher should be located no closer than 25 feet from any perennial stream bank unless absolutely necessary and no other practical

location for the trail exists. Trails should be located further than 25 feet from streams if there is evidence that stream banks are eroding.

3. Stream crossings should be avoided when possible.
4. Trails should be located to ensure that minimum disruption of the trail would result from the repair or replacement of utilities.
5. Street crossings should be grade separated if possible. At grade, street crossings should be planned so that trail and road users have the greatest sight distance possible.

Trail Amenities

Certain amenities may be planned to provide for the comfort and safety of trail users and area residents. The Town may provide the following amenities within greenway corridors:

Bollards

These devices prevent automobiles from driving on greenway trails. Bollards are commonly used on trails of Class 5 or higher. Bollards should be locked so that emergency vehicles, police cars, and maintenance vehicles have access to the trail.

Keys to bollards should be provided to the Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Department, the Chapel Hill Police Department, Chapel Hill Fire Department, South Orange Rescue Squad and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority, as appropriate.

Observation Decks

Observation decks can be built overlooking scenic areas. These structures should not be built within floodplains, in places where they may compromise the privacy of nearby residents, or in areas not readily accessible to maintenance vehicles.

Gazebos

These small structures can be provided to allow trail users to enjoy passive recreation activities

Dedicated Public Access Land

Text Street Names

Streets

Streams

Carboro City Limits

Carboro Planning Jurisdiction

Water Bodies

Dedicated Public Access

Basins

BOLIN CREEK

BOOKER CREEK

MORGAN CREEK

ATTACHMENT 6

3600 0 3600 Feet

NC State Plane Coordinate System (NAD83)



TOWN OF CARBORO

301 W. Main St.
Carboro, NC 27516

21 October 2000
Public Information Department
910-728-7228

THIS MAP IS NOT A CERTIFIED SURVEY AND IS FOR REFERENCE

The user must be aware of the conditions and liability for the map. The user must be aware of the conditions and liability for the map. The user must be aware of the conditions and liability for the map.



DCHC MPO -- STP-DA Allocation Table (FY2004-2010)

[illegible]

**TOWN OF CARRBORO**

NORTH CAROLINA

STAFF REPORT**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

To: Steven Stewart, Town Manager
Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Patricia J. McGuire, Planning Administrator

Date: October 23, 2003 (Reformatted December 10, 2003)

Subject: Greenways

November 11, 2003 Agenda Abstract Components have been included here.

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*).



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Stewart, Town Manager
Mayor and Board of Aldermen

FROM: Patricia J. McGuire, Planning Administrator

DATE: November 6, 2003

SUBJECT: Bolin Creek Master Plan – Response to Friends of Bolin Creek Proposal

In mid-January, members of the Friends of Bolin Creek (FOBC), a non-profit organization (**Attachment 1**) dedicated to preserving the Bolin Creek corridor, made a presentation to the Board of Aldermen. Presentations were made in the weeks and months that followed to elected officials and advisory boards in Orange County. The FOBC had provided comments to the Board of Aldermen in September 2002 at the public hearing on annexation of the Horace Williams and Winmore tracts and noted their pending request for support for the proposed Bolin Creek corridor master plan. The group offered their proposal to the Chapel Hill Town Council in November 2002. With the exception of the September 2002 annexation public hearing, the purpose of these presentations was to request support and assistance towards the preparation of the master plan.

Using a model developed in the spring of 1989 and followed in the development of the New Hope Corridor Open Space Master Plan, the FOBC proposed that the governing bodies of Chapel Hill, Orange County, and Carrboro appoint an advisory committee. Using funds provided by the local governments, the advisory committee is envisioned to hire a consultant to conduct a biological examination of the creek corridor that would be used to develop recommendations to guide its protection and to coordinate the planning processes by the jurisdictions and key stakeholders (e.g. Orange Water and Sewer Authority, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Orange County). The presentation summary (**Attachment 2**) notes the four principal reasons that have inspired the FOBC to make this proposal. These reasons are:

1. With burgeoning growth in southern Orange County, this is critical time to carefully manage urban growth in the Bolin Creek watershed.
2. There is a need to establish connectivity of natural areas, existing and planned parks, and greenways.
3. There is an opportunity to preserve the last intact stretches of native forest habitat remaining in southern Orange County.

ATTACHMENT B-2

4. FOBC desires to leave a natural legacy for future generations.

This report seeks to build on an October 28th report on Greenway Planning to examine the following subjects in relation to the FOBC proposal: 1) Description of Bolin Creek watershed, 2) Elements of a Master Plan, and 3) Coordination of Planning and Implementation for Bolin Creek Corridor.

Description of Bolin Creek Watershed in Carrboro's jurisdiction

The Bolin Creek basin includes approximately 7,620 acres of land, just over 11 square miles, approximately half of which is located in Carrboro's planning jurisdiction. A small portion, approximately 120 acres, is located in Orange County's jurisdiction. The remainder is located in the jurisdiction of the Town of Chapel Hill.

At the present time, approximately 50 percent of the Town's planning jurisdiction is located within the Bolin Creek watershed. This area is bounded by Main Street and Weaver Street on the south and W. Main Street, Hillsborough Street, and Union Grove Church Road on the west. Eubanks Road approximates a northern boundary and, roughly, the Southern Railway right-of-way forms the eastern boundary of the basin.

With the exception of the small piece of the basin located in the Rural Buffer, the northern extent of the watershed forms the western boundary of the public water and sewer supply network and those portions of this area designated "Transition Areas" in the 1987 Joint Planning Land Use Plan fall under the Town's planning authority by virtue of the Joint Planning Agreement adopted that same year. The Town of Chapel Hill exercises similar authority over northern portions of the Booker Creek watershed. The intent of the joint planning approach was to grant land use planning and permitting authority of future urban areas to the municipalities, as would occur if the Town's had expanded their extra-territorial boundaries, while retaining a role for the citizens, via their elected representatives, who resided outside the Towns' city limits.

The extent to which the creek basin is developed is evident in the attached illustration (**Attachment 3**). While a detailed analysis of the change in population of the basin has not been conducted, recent trends in population growth may be noted. Since 1980, Orange County's population, independent of the towns, has grown at about 3.4 percent per year, slightly higher than the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area's growth of 2.9 percent per year. Chapel Hill grew at about 1.5 percent annually, compared to 4.1 percent for Carrboro in the 1980's and 4.5 percent in the 1990's. In 1987, Carrboro's planning jurisdiction expanded to encompass a larger portion of the Bolin Creek basin. Prior to that time, development had occurred primarily within the Town limits or within the extra-territorial jurisdiction to the northeast (between NC Highway 54 bypass and Bolin Creek) or southwest of the Town's core (along Smith Level Road and on the south/west sides of the bypass). A summary of development in Carrboro's jurisdiction in the years following the adoption of the Joint Planning

ATTACHMENT B-3

Agreement is provided below. Those projects located in the Bolin Creek basin are shaded.

Year Approved	Development	Number of Units	Creek Basin
1987	Richardson	7	Morgan
1988	Morgan Glen	10	Morgan/Ulake
	Quarterpath Trace	80	Bolin
	Byers	5	Bolin
	Berryhill	105	Morgan
1990	Meadow Run	13	Bolin
	Camden	24	Bolin
1991	Teal Place	5	Morgan
	Wexford	95	Bolin
1992	Winsome Lane	26	Morgan/Ulake
	Cates Farm	73	Bolin
	Ridgehaven	45	Morgan
	Highland Meadows	20	Bolin
1993	Arcadia	33	Bolin
1994	Williams Woods	26	Bolin
	Bel Arbor	30	Morgan
	Brewer Lane	16	Morgan
	Lake Hogan Farms	438	Bolin
	Tupelo Ridge	6	Bolin/Morgan
1995	Sunset Creek	69	Bolin
	Autumn Woods	222	Tom's/Morgan
1996	Roberson Place	122	Morgan
	Carolina Spring	124	Morgan
	Tupelo Ridge II	12	Bolin/Morgan
	Highlands North	18	Bolin
	University Commons	72	Morgan
1997	UCC Living Center	40	Morgan
	The Cedars	49	Bolin
	Kent Woodlands	26	Morgan
	Berryhill 3/4	59	Morgan
2000	Ray Road	10	Morgan/Ulake
	Mulberry Street	12	Bolin
	Karen Woods	10	Bolin
2001	Rose's Walk at Morgan Ridge	64	Morgan
2002	McFall	3	Morgan/Ulake
	Cole's Crossing	10	Morgan/Ulake
	Horne Hollow	9	Bolin
	Tramore West	6	Bolin
	Twin Magnolias	23	Morgan
2003	Pacifica	46	Bolin
	Winmore	232	Bolin

Since 1987, 2,295 dwelling units have been approved in Carrboro's jurisdiction, 1,019 in the Morgan Creek basin and 1,276 in the Bolin Creek basin.

Elements of a Master Plan

A master plan may be used for a specific improvement, such as recreation and parks and greenways, a defined area, such as the New Hope Creek Corridor, or a combination of the two. Such documents typically include the following elements:

- 1) Description of the master plan development process and participants.
- 2) Inventory and assessment of existing conditions.
- 3) Purpose and goals of proposed "improvement," (e.g. recreation, transportation, wildlife).
- 4) Range of desired improvements (e.g. trail width, surface, access points).
- 5) Criteria/standards for improvements (e.g. distance to steep slopes, waterway).
- 6) Description of improvements (e.g. segment location, ownership/jurisdiction, description of significance, use and protection strategies).
- 7) Implementation steps (e.g. hierarchy of acquisition options, forms of compensation).
- 8) Accompanying maps of existing and proposed conditions

A single master plan has not yet been prepared for the Bolin Creek watershed, per se. Yet, it is clear that many elements of a master plan have been developed and have guided acquisition and development decisions along the corridor in both Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The implicit vision in these efforts is that the major stream corridors in southern Orange County should be managed to support a "greenway" in the broadest sense – a multi-function network of connections of and between places of importance.

Much of the Bolin Creek corridor is already serving this function. Explicit recognition, beyond that provided in Chapel Hill and Carrboro's planning documents or in the master plan in development for the Chapel Hill Township Park north of Carrboro will also be valuable to properly use and manage the corridor. A more detailed summary of the existing framework of "master plan elements" is provided (**Attachment 4**). Please note that this attachment is very similar to one prepared in conjunction with a Greenway Planning update presented on October 28, but does provide some additional details. The following activities are noted as they are characteristic of some of the master plan elements listed above.

Date	Activity	Master Plan Element (s)
1980	<i>Carrboro Neighborhood Parks and Greenway System Plan.</i> The plan is concise and direct in defining the purpose, location, size, service area, features, and maintenance needs for the noted parks and greenways. This document spells out two purposes for greenways: first, <i>preserving natural ecological processes</i> and second, providing low cost recreation areas, principally because these could be located where steep slopes and/or flooding would preclude other activities	Purpose, existing conditions, description of improvements, implementation

ATTACHMENT B-5

Date	Activity	Master Plan Element (s)
1988	<i>Inventory of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats of Orange County, North Carolina.</i> The inventory was prepared in response to development trends that threatened significant natural resources as a tool to identify and protect them. Proposes Bolin Creek greenway. Recommends that 150-acre corridor between Estes Drive and Homestead Road be assigned status as a "natural area" within the greenway system.	Inventory and assessment of existing conditions,
1987	Buffer requirements for streams located outside of the University Lake watershed enacted.	Criteria/standards for improvements
1992	<i>Carrboro Master Recreation and Parks Plan.</i>	Description of improvements, in part, implementation steps.
1995	<i>Carrboro Land Use Ordinance</i> – amendments to require 40 percent open space in residential development (majority of undeveloped portions of Bolin Creek basin are zoned for residential development) and to provide recreation and open space "credits" for developed trails.	Criteria/standards for improvements, description of improvements
1998	<i>Chapel Hill Greenways: A Comprehensive Master Plan.</i> Plan update will begin in December 2003	All
1999	<i>NSA Plan.</i> (Adopted by Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro) and Land Use Ordinance amendments	Existing conditions, purpose, location, criteria/standards for development, implementation steps.
2000-2003	<i>Chapel Hill Comprehensive Plan Development Management Ordinance</i> – expanded resource protection	Criteria/standards for development

Protection of the Bolin Creek stream corridor and its associated valuable ecological processes appears to first have been identified as aspect of a greenway planning in Carrboro in 1980. While the corridor, recreation, and transportation functions of a greenway are often emphasized, the inclusion of the conservation function in early planning for Bolin Creek is consistent with greenway planning.

Coordination of planning and implementation within the Bolin Creek Corridor

In addition to the adopted plans and regulations that are already in place and affect the Bolin Creek corridor, there are a number of planning and development initiatives underway or under consideration. These include:

- Carolina North – advisory committees from the University, Town of Chapel Hill, and Town of Carrboro (all cross-pollinating with one another, to some degree)
- Chapel Hill Township Park and Educational Campus
- Adams Tract Preservation Committee and acquisition efforts
- Hillsborough Road Park Planning
- Chapel Hill Greenways Plan Update- Tanbark Branch Trail
- Carrboro Master Recreation and Parks Plan Update

Staff of the Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation Department prepared a report "The Adams Tract and Bolin Creek Corridor: Towards a Possible Master Plan" earlier this year. The report recognizes the extensive planning that has occurred to date in

ATTACHMENT B-6

the Bolin Creek corridor. In light of those efforts and the large number of advisory and independent groups now in existence who make recommendations and decisions about the creek, the report describes an alternative approach to the FOBC proposal for a master plan. The alternative approach would involve the creation of a master plan committee to be made up of representatives from existing groups (e.g. advisory committees, Triangle Land Conservancy, FOBC), evaluation by Town and County staff of the availability of existing resources that could be committed in support of the project, and the development of a project mission and timeline.

Carrboro staff echo the comments offered by the County that recognize the concern and commitment evidenced by the FOBC efforts. A modified version of Orange County's alternative is offered for consideration, especially in view of the planning activities and committees currently underway. Using a charrette format, staff of all associated agencies and representatives of other interested parties would present and review all pertinent documents and projects, and identify consistencies and conflicts. The goal of the charrette would be to create an indexed, cumulative "master plan" that cross-references all the separate components and identifies any need for clarification. The compiled document would then be provided to elected officials and formal advisory boards, perhaps at an Assembly of Governments meeting for their adoption or acceptance as a comprehensive resource guide to the Bolin Creek corridor.

Attachments



Friends of Bolin Creek
P.O. Box 234
Carrboro, NC 27510

What is Friends of Bolin Creek?

The Friends of Bolin Creek is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the Bolin Creek corridor. Working with the University of North Carolina, the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and with Orange County, we would like to establish a perpetual nature park and preserve along the Bolin Creek corridor. We envision multiple uses, compatible with our preservation goals including hiking, biking, riding and nature study.

How can you help?

You can help the Friends of Bolin Creek preserve this precious forest habitat by:

- becoming a 'Friend' of Bolin Creek*
- participating in activities such as creek walks or fundraisers
- volunteering time for fundraising, creek watching, newsletter design, and more
- making a tax-deductible donation - all donations, large or small, are welcomed

Membership dues are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students

To become a member, volunteer your time, and/or make a donation, please send your contact information (including email address) along with a check made out to:

Friends of Bolin Creek (FoBC)
P.O. Box 234
Carrboro, NC 27510

For more information, visit our website at
www.bolincreek.org

or contact Dave Otto at 919-966-6226

Friends of Bolin Creek

www.bolincreek.org



**Preserving and
Protecting the Bolin
Creek Watershed**

What are we trying to protect?

- With burgeoning growth in southern Orange County, it is now essential to carefully manage urban growth in the Bolin Creek Watershed. If the watershed is not preserved over the next few years, the opportunity will be lost forever.
- There is an important need to connect natural areas, existing and planned park, schools and greenways. It is our dream to connect the Chapel Hill Greenway to Wilson and Umstead Parks and the planned Carrboro Greenway.

- We want to preserve the last intact stretches of native forest habitat remaining in southern Orange County. Much of the forest areas in the Horace Williams Tract and the Northern Transition Zone are botanically sensitive and ecologically valuable. The Adams Tract, about 30 acres between Estes Drive and Watters Road in Carrboro, is not only beautiful, but also an important gateway to the park and preserve that we want to establish.

- We want to leave a natural legacy that our children, our grandchildren and future generations can enjoy. Christopher Alexander and his colleagues have expressed it well in *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*: "When the countryside is far away, the city becomes a prison" and "Every city inhabitant should be within a 10 minute walk of a natural area." We have a critical opportunity to preserve the natural corridor along Bolin Creek before it is engulfed by the rising tide of development in this area.

Where is Bolin Creek?



Bolin Creek starts as a tiny spring Northwest of Old Route 86 in Orange County. It winds its way through Carrboro and the University of North Carolina's Horace Williams Tract and then proceeds eastward into the heart of Chapel Hill. It merges with Booker Creek east of the 15-501 bypass to form Little Creek, and eventually flows into Jordan Lake.

How Can we preserve the Bolin Creek Corridor?

We can preserve the corridor by:

- Direct purchase of property
- Conservation easements - a voluntary legal agreement between land owner and conservation agency that permanently limits land use.
- Donations of land - outright or by will
- Grants that guarantee the rights to keep the land in its natural state, in perpetuity.
- Mutual covenant - an agreement between a group of landowners placing restrictions on the use of their land. Does not involve land trust or government agency.



The Bolin Creek Watershed is inhabited by a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, trees and wildflowers including:

Beaver
Grey Fox
N. Flying Squirrel
Chorus Frog
Eastern Fence Lizard
Great Horned Owl
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black Walnut Tree
Carolina Hemlock Tree
Black Rattlesnake Root
Showy Orchid
Pennywort
Moth Mullein
Nodding Trillium
Black Trumpets

These beautiful inhabitants are threatened by watershed development.

CREATING AN OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN FOR THE BOLIN CREEK CORRIDOR

Presentation to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen (January 14, 2003)

Summary of presentation to be made by Dave Otto, Chairman of the Friends of Bolin Creek; Doug Nicholas, Liaison from Triangle Land Conservancy; and Julie McClintock, Public Relations Chairman for FoBC.

We want to make you aware that the Friends of Bolin Creek have initiated a campaign to preserve this special corridor which runs from the northern transition area of Carrboro through the Horace Williams Tract and then eastward through Carrboro and Chapel Hill to merge with Booker Creek east of the 15-501 bypass. The Bolin Creek Corridor includes one of the last stretches of significant native forest habitat left in southern Orange County. At several well-attended public meetings earlier this year, we were encouraged by the enthusiasm of many citizens who also desire to help us save this creek and the lands around it.

We believe that initiating a **Bolin Creek Corridor Open Space Master Plan** is the next appropriate step in our community's effort to save and preserve Bolin Creek. We envision a process similar to that used in developing the New Hope Creek Corridor Master Plan more than ten years ago. In that case, the governing boards of Chapel Hill, Orange County, Durham and Durham County passed a common resolution recognizing the value of the New Hope Creek Corridor. The governing boards appointed an Advisory Committee representing each of the jurisdictions that worked with planning staffs and a consultant to prepare an Open Space Master Plan.

On January 14 we will be presenting an overview of our concept and asking Carrboro to join with Chapel Hill and Orange County to begin a similar process for the study of the Bolin Creek Corridor. We propose that the three governing bodies appoint an Advisory Committee representing each of the jurisdictions and other key stakeholders along the following lines. The Advisory Committee should be composed of 15 members, four each appointed by Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County, and one each appointed by key stakeholders including UNC-Chapel Hill (Horace Williams Committee), Duke University (Duke Forest interest in the northern reaches of the corridor) and OWASA. We respectfully suggest that the governing bodies appoint representatives along these lines: an elected member of the board or other board representative; a member of a government environmental advisory committee; a member of the Friends of Bolin Creek Steering Committee residing in that jurisdiction; and a landowner in proximity to Bolin Creek residing in that jurisdiction.

The Advisory Committee will be charged with hiring a consultant and working with that consultant and planning staffs to conduct a thorough biological examination of this valuable regional resource, leading to recommendations to guide its protection. A significant aspect of this study will be to integrate current planning processes initiated by the three jurisdictions and other key stakeholders.

Additionally, we ask Carrboro to assist in funding or in identifying funding sources to hire a consultant to develop the Open Space Corridor Master Plan described above. (Possible funding sources outside operating budgets include Orange County Open Space bond funds, the