

Haw Creek Growth and Development Survey Findings

Last October, the Haw Creek Community Association undertook a residents' survey about growth and development issues facing our valley. 201 residents participated. While not a scientific survey, the results provide a snapshot of community opinion on a range of issues.

The Growth and Development Survey was designed to reveal your concerns – and your ideas – for addressing the impacts of growth. The survey findings serve to guide this community association, and will also be shared with city leaders to help them better address community-identified priorities.

Building construction remains an ongoing feature of life in Haw Creek. Our homes are built on land that was once farmland or woodland, and stopping new growth is not realistic. We can, however, take steps to mitigate the impacts of that growth.

The survey identifies some shared goals; but success in achieving them will require broad community involvement, including yours. Working together, we can ensure Haw Creek remains a desirable place to call home. Once the pandemic subsides, we will schedule public meetings to work on the needs identified in the survey.

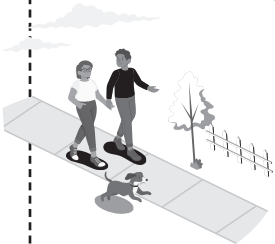
Thank you!

Survey Findings

Questions 1 and 2: Are sidewalks a priority for you and which streets should have sidewalks?

88% of respondents rate additional sidewalks a priority. By far, the #1 reason was safety. Respondents expressed a desire to walk around the neighborhood but currently feel unsafe.

New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek Rds were overwhelmingly identified as needing sidewalks, with Bethesda and Waters Rd also receiving mention. Roadside ditches and lack of road shoulders were also mentioned as safety concerns.



One resident's comment:
Yes!! I have two small children and walking around the neighborhood is one of our favorite activities but it does not feel safe here. We could easily walk to and support local businesses like Penny Cup and Creekside and Fox Salon if Old Haw Creek Rd. had a sidewalk.

Question 3: How else would you improve pedestrian safety in Haw Creek?

Top rated ideas:

1. More crosswalks, especially at schools and lower Beverly Rd.
2. Lowering speeds with enforcement and speed humps
3. Pedestrian bridge over Haw Creek at Beverly Rd.

One resident's comment:

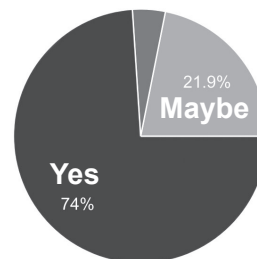
Revisit [the] idea of making Old Haw Creek a one-way road out of the valley. This would free up a lane for pedestrians and cyclists. Perhaps try this idea on a weekend to gauge community interest and support.



Questions 4 and 5: Do you support a Greenway for Haw Creek, and where would you put it?

Greenways are linear parks that often follow waterways or roads and provide a safe place to walk or cycle.

The vast majority of respondents (74% - see graph) supported a Haw Creek Greenway in principle. However, many folks identified the inherent challenges of negotiating with



192 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

landowners; and some respondents were concerned about the rights of private landowners. The majority of those who supported the greenway felt it should follow Haw Creek; the second most popular suggestion was along New Haw Creek Rd.

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Survey Findings *(continued from front)*

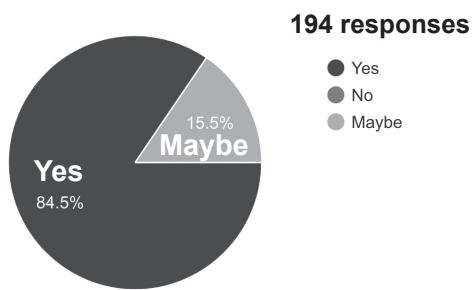
Questions 4 and 5: continued

One resident's comment:

Greenways definitely offer some serious logistical challenges; but the future is less car intensive. Imagine if we could connect with other parts of Asheville, safely, without getting in the car!

Questions 6 and 7: Do you support preservation of open spaces and if so, how do you believe they should be utilized?

Long time residents of Haw Creek may recall acquisition of a nine acre site on Maple Drive, now Master's Park, is an example of successful open space land preservation. There are only a few remaining large tracts of land in Haw Creek. If these properties were to become available, would you support preserving them?



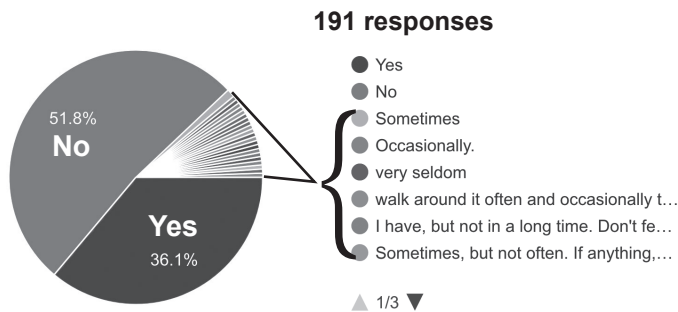
84.5% of respondents support acquiring and preserving large tracts of land for preservation should the opportunity arise - an idea no one opposed. Suggested uses include:

- Nature trails for walking and hiking; picnic areas
- Recreation/sports park
- Children's playground and dog park
- Community gathering space
- Nature education/community gardens

Questions 8 and 9: Do you use Haw Creek Park? Why or why not?

Haw Creek Park is a 6.2-acre park at Beverly and Avon Roads that is now twenty years old. It includes a picnic shelter, paved and natural walking trails, and historic markers.

This question resulted in a range of comments. People use this park to walk dogs, exercise,



and connect with nature and friends. However, the majority of respondents do not use this park. Many respondents raised concerns about homeless people using the park, with some feeling less safe as a result. Others describe a park not interesting and lacking in things to do.

One commenter stated:

We love Haw Creek Park. We would love to see it cleaned up and brush cleared for better visibility and safety. Would love to have bathrooms maintained and open. Would love to see more playground equipment.

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President's Message

Like so much else during the pandemic, forward progress on community needs has been limited. Public meetings have had to be canceled, neighborhood outreach stalled and overall progress slowed. We hope 2022 will be the year this changes but we're not there yet.

Despite these hurdles, we are making progress. By the end of 2022 both the Beverly Rd pedestrian bridge and improvements to Masters Park will be complete. And survey findings in this newsletter provide direction for future efforts.

As an all volunteer community association, we need your support. Communications like this newsletter—mailed to every Haw Creek household—are made possible by your membership. Please join or renew your \$20 annual membership at the bottom of the ilovehawcreek.com homepage.

Lastly, the annual meeting of the community association, typically scheduled for the first Tuesday in March, will likely have to be postponed. When pandemic conditions allow, we will reschedule this public meeting. An important function of the annual meeting is election of board of directors for the community association. In 2021 the annual meeting also had to be canceled, resulting in all twelve seats now being up for election in 2022. Think about making yourself available as a candidate.

Chris Pelly

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MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Association shall be available to residents, as well as property owners, in the Haw Creek community and there shall be one class of membership.

DUES: Twenty dollars (\$20) paid once annually in January. Make your check to HCCA and mail to: HCCA; P.O. Box 9193; Asheville, NC 28815 Please include: member names, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Survey Findings *(continued from previous page)*

Question 10: What improvements would you make to Haw Creek Park?

An improved children's playground topped the list. There was also support for a pump track. Several respondents suggested removing the curtain of kudzu developing along Avon Rd., and generally opening up the park for better visibility and improved safety.

Another commenter:

Bigger children's playground, especially since the library playground is diminished. Would like to see better integration between the park and the creek. The creek borders the park but is not connected to the park. Currently there is no interaction between the two. With the surrounding commercial area being revitalized, this seems a missed opportunity.

Question 11: Where are the traffic hot spots for drivers and pedestrians? What improvements/changes would you like to see?

SPEED
LIMIT
35

Top areas of concern are the intersections of Beverly Rd at New Haw Creek and the Tunnel/Crockett/ New Haw Creek valley entrance. Residents also expressed concern about drivers exceeding the speed limit on valley roads.

Other hot spots include the blind corner at the Old Haw Creek /Middlebrook intersection; lack of pedestrian signage at Trinity Chapel at New Haw Creek; and traffic backups at pickup time for both valley schools. Ideas for improving the Beverly / NHC intersection include improving sightlines, slowing intersection traffic - especially on New Haw Creek, and a footbridge over the creek keeping walkers out of Beverly Rd.

Question 12: As our valley grows and develops and more people move in, what steps would you suggest to protect and preserve the natural beauty of Haw Creek?

Many suggested limits on development and density - decisions made by the City Council. Others suggested tree preservation: "require trees be planted for every tree cut down," while still others called for "more litter cleanup days."

Other residents suggested, "Giving newcomers a resource guide for preserving local nature" and "[e]ncourage homeowners to aim for wildlife friendly yards with pollinator and/or bird habitats and to grow diverse native plants and trees."

Several respondents offered a variation on this theme: "Money talks. Have a conservation fund set [up] to buy fallow land for dedication to conservation." and, "Like with Masters Park, the community must come together to buy and preserve land when opportunities present themselves."

Question 13: What are the most pressing environmental issues facing our community? How can we make a positive environmental impact at the community level?

Respondents expressed a clear interest in protecting and preserving the natural environment in a variety of contexts. Areas of interest / concern included:

- living with urban bears
- addressing invasive plant species like kudzu
- inadequate road infrastructure
- stormwater-related run-off and erosion of creek banks
- lack of recycling options at Haw Creek Mews and other apartments
- lack of sidewalks, greenways and bike lanes



Pedestrian Bridge Coming in 2022

The campaign to build a pedestrian bridge over Haw Creek at Beverly Rd was given a boost in December when our community association was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the City of Asheville.

As an inaugural recipient of the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant program, the Haw Creek Community Association is pleased to report funding will allow this project to proceed with completion within 2022.

The foot bridge over the creek will be located alongside Beverly Rd, and provide safe passage for people walking between businesses and the parking lot located across the creek. Presently, crossing the creek requires walking within oftentimes busy Beverly Rd..

The foot bridge will be built on top of an existing steel trelis owned by AT&T which is allowing this new use. Thank you AT&T! The Haw Creek Community Association also thanks the City and its leaders for partnering to address this long standing safety challenge.

Information
about living
with bears.

<https://bear-wise.org/>

Scan with your
smartphone:



Questions 14 and 15: In years past our community association hosted barbecues, food trucks, parades, yard sales, potlucks and other events. Would you like to restart these type events? What type of events appeal to you?

By all accounts, last year's weekly food trucks were a hit. There was a great deal of support for their return. Suggested improvements include a location with more parking and where folks can gather and can eat together. Also popular, "meet your neighbor" events like yard sales, barbecues, musical and educational programs, and other social gatherings.

Question 16: What did we miss? What is your top priority for preserving or improving Haw Creek?

This question generated a range of responses, and gave people a platform to reinforce key messages from other sections of the survey. For the full list visit our website: ilovehawcreek.com.



Haw Creek Community Association
 PO Box 9193
 Asheville NC 28815

Stay connected with neighbors:

Join Next Door to hear and share neighborhood information. Scan with your smartphone:



Masters Park Getting the Love

A community fundraising campaign from 2021, the ‘Masters Park Challenge,’ has raised more than \$30K from community members towards construction of improvements at this beloved Maple Drive park. As listed here, many neighbors accepted the challenge and supported this project.

In addition, our association was awarded in December 2021, a grant from the N.C. Recreational Trails Program. Taken together, community contributions and the state grant will allow completion of improvements by the end of spring 2022. When finished, Masters Park will have an off-road parking lot--no more roadside muddy mess--plus new signage and a new kiosk.

Many thanks to the following people who contributed to the Masters Park Challenge.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Nancy Allen | Mark Durham | Kathryn Liss & Karl Katterjohn | Max Phillips | Jack & Bebe Tarleton |
| Leslie Anixster | Dragon’s Eye | Jennifer Listug | Bob & Martha Pierce | Mayo Taylor |
| Robert & Karen Anoff | Rick & Linda Fornoff | Anne Lovell | Joan Pinegar | Cynthia Threlkeld |
| Anonymous | Linda Frankl | Christina & Frank Maggi | Elizabeth Putnam | Mary Lou Travis |
| Anonymous | Terry Gillespie | Gail Mair & Roger Wheelock | Bill & Nancy Rawlings | James Usedom |
| Bernard & Holly Arghiere | Randee Goodstadt | Kim Masnick | Jonathan Reily | Vanguard Charitable |
| Susan & Fred Barbour | Peter Grumblatt & Lisa Young | Elizabeth Matthews | Renate Ridders | Jack Webb |
| Steven & Pamela Baron | Tim & Carol Harrison | Cindy McMahon | Wayne Robbins | Jessie Wilder |
| Susan Bicknell | Sarah & Sam Hess | Barber Melton | Jon Sarver & Amanda Mills | Gwen Wisler |
| Bruce Black & Helen Toms | Rhonda Hoffman | Kitty & Tom Meyers | Deborah Scholl | |
| Wyndy Bonesteel | Bobbi Holland | Bruce & Susan Michael | Diane Silver | |
| Marty Boone | Ink to the People | Georgena Millar | Richard Mott | |
| Margot Cain | Travis Jackson | Margaret Normile | Roy & Rebekah Smucker | |
| Annie Clark | Linda Kooiker | Sarah Oram | Bil Stahl & Catherine Joynes | |
| Mike Coladonato | Jeff & Leslie Lamm | Mary Lynn Paluselli | Adam Stein | |
| Carole-Anne Cordero | Andrew & Mollie Lammers | Chris Pelly & Juanita Igo | Dwayne Stutzman & Sara Davis | |
| Janet Doellgast | Terry & Christine Latanich | Julia Pelly | Anne Tansey | |
| Stephen Duncan | | | | |



Masters Park Trailhead

How to rent a City of Asheville bear resistant trash can.

Scan with your smartphone: