



## New Riverside Park

### Public Workshop -Meeting Notes October 10, 2018 4:30-6:30 PM Oscar Frazier Park Rotary Community Center

The New Riverside Park properties (including New Riverside Park and Garvey Hall tracts) have been earmarked for development as passive use parks. As currently defined in the Beaufort County Community Development Code, passive recreation is: "Recreation requiring little or no physical exertion focusing on the enjoyment of one's natural surroundings. In determining appropriate recreational uses in passive parks, the promotion and development of resource-based activities such as fishing, camping, hunting, boating, gardening, bicycling, nature studies, horse-back riding, visiting historic sites, hiking, etc. shall be the predominant measure for passive park utilization." For this reason, park development will focus only those elements deemed passive.

The following is a synopsis of public input received during a public workshop held October 10, 2018 at the Oscar Frazier Park- Rotary Community Center. Public comments have been included in the compilation of potential elements under consideration for park development. These public comments (*indicated in italics*) were combined with input from the Strom Thurmond Institute community survey completed in 2016 and additional suggestions from the design team (**these combined items are listed in bold**). Following public discussion, participants were encouraged to vote for items they felt strongly about. Each participant was given three votes to use as desired. Numbers of votes received are denoted in parenthesis.

#### **Public Input:**

**1) Dog Access: Will dogs be allowed in the proposed park?** *Due to concerns with alligators and other potential wildlife conflicts, pets will not be allowed at the New River site. The Garvey Hall property may be more suitable for dogs and will be considered.*

**2) Fencing: Will there be fencing surrounding the park?** *Fencing may be used in specific locations in an effort to keep the public off of adjacent private land. This component will be further evaluated during master planning.*

**3) Camping: How will this be controlled and monitored (1)? Will campfires be allowed?** *There could be benefits to onsite camping- in terms of revenue generation. At this point, we are trying to gauge public interest. If there is interest, additional consideration will be given to operational concerns such as controls, monitoring and the allowance of campfires.*

**4) Adjacent Properties:** *There is use of the existing New River Linear Trail by The Heritage at New River residents. Perhaps they should be interviewed to see what they believe is needed. Will there be direct access provided linking various surrounding developments with the park? This will be evaluated during master planning.*

**5) Hunting: Will hunting be allowed?** *Public hunting is not envisioned for the property, however, there may be a need for controlled hunting as part of a land management strategy. There are currently hogs on the property and this could be a concern when melded with public use. (1)*

**6) ATVs/Golf Carts and Motorcycles: How will these be monitored and controlled?** *An ordinance preventing their use is currently proposed and awaiting County Council approval. If passed, these illegal uses would be controlled by the Sheriff's Department. Right now there is no means of monitoring other than monitoring by concerned citizens.*

**7) Safety: Will first aid stations be provided?** *This will definitely be considered at the park. (1)*

**8) Kayak/Canoe Rentals:** *This could make sense at the Garvey Hall property and could provide an opportunity for revenue generation.*

**Elements compiled from community survey and design team:**

**9) Trails:**

- Walking and Interpretive trails **(5)**
- Mountain/Off-road bicycle trails **(1)**
- Boardwalks and overlooks
- Periodic seating/benches **(2)**
- Trailhead kiosk for information

**10) Primitive Camping (with no water, sewer, electricity or internet): (1)**

- Raised platform sites and/or unmodified earthen pads
- Composting or "temporary" toilet facilities
- Water-based camp sites

**11) Picnic Areas:**

- Open-air shelter(s) with roof and concrete floor
- Supporting picnic tables, trash cans, bike racks

**12) Wildlife Observation Areas:**

- Open-air shelter(s) with roof and concrete floor
- Elevated observation tower(s) **(1)**
- Pier for fishing, interpretation **(1)**
- Areas for environmental, cultural interpretation and education

**13) Parking (2):**

- Small areas of dispersed parking
- Provided to support adjacent uses, only

**14) Canoe & Kayak (Blue Way) Trails:**

- Trails with distance markers **(2)**
- Limited put-in/take-out points **(1)**
- Possible day dock/floating dock for access to high land

**15) Improvements to Avoid: (2)**

- Active athletic facilities (baseball / soccer fields; hard-surface courts, etc.)
- Areas drawing amplification, motorized use or impactful lighting **(1)**
- “Event spaces” for uses such as outdoor concerts, large rallies/gatherings, etc.

Following completion of public input a conceptual master plan will be completed. The plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year.

Phase one park development will be evaluated at the completion of the master planning phase and will be predicated by budget, development of plans and permitting.

End of Memo