



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Commissioners  
**FROM:** Mark Donaldson, Director  
**DATE:** December 9, 2010  
**MPC FILE #:** 12-A-10-SAP  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of an amendment to the Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation, and Greenways Plan initiated by City Council to correct language at page 9 and correct a map description at page 43

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**REQUEST:**

City Council has initiated an amendment to the Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation, and Greenways Plan to make two corrections: (1) to correct language at page 9 and (2) to correct a map description at page 43.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan was adopted by MPC December 2009 and by the City of Knoxville and Knox County January 2010. Recent examination regarding the rezoning of land identified in the plan as potential park expansion areas in the City has uncovered two errors in the plan. City Council has initiated a plan amendment to correct those errors.

**ANALYSIS:**

At page 9, middle column, in a section of the plan generally lauding the efforts of the City and County for its recent efforts to expand the land within the city and county for park and open space preservation, the term "acquired" was used to describe the action related to a list of properties. This was an error. The list of properties includes several that are still privately owned but have been included in the *Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor* by Legacy Parks Foundation and the Plan. It is proposed that this term be changed to "acquired or identified for protection as parks and conservation areas."

At page 43, a map of the South City Sector identifies existing and proposed park and conservation areas, including the properties identified as the Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor. Loghaven Conservation area is identified with a symbol, color and line weight used for

“existing park facilities – open space / natural area.” This was in error. The property should have been identified as “proposed ridge conservation area,” a different symbol, color and line weight.

MPC staff will see that the proposed changes to this map designation are completed on all KGIS and MPC maps.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that MPC recommend to City Council that:

1. Page 9 be modified to change the term “acquired” to the phrase “acquired or identified for protection as parks and conservation areas.”
2. Page 43 be modified to change the map symbol for the Loghaven Conservation Area from “existing open space / natural area” to “proposed ridge conservation area.”

**Attachments:**

- Resolution from City Council
- Current page 9 of Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan
- Current page 43 of Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan

RESOLUTION

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RESOLUTION NO.:

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A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING AND ENCOURAGING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO DELETE FROM THE DESIGNATION OF "OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREAS" ON THE SOUTH CITY SECTOR MAP AND THE "KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY PARK, RECREATION AND GREENWAYS PLAN" PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER OF 2009, BOTH FORT STANLEY PARK AND LOG HAVEN CONSERVATION AREA AND TO DELETE REFERENCES TO FORT STANLEY AND FORT HIGLEY AS "PUBLIC LANDS."

RESOLUTION NO: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Roddy

PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS : \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Law

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTE BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, that area within the City of Knoxville known as "Fort Stanley Park" and also that area known as the "Log Haven Conservation Area" are privately owned properties which, to date, have not been conveyed to the City of Knoxville for use as public parks; and,

WHEREAS, while both of the referenced areas are beautiful examples of nature and highlight the value to our community of efforts to conserve and protect significant natural areas within the City, these parcels of property are not public parks owned, controlled and maintained by the City of Knoxville; and,

WHEREAS, Fort Higley also is an area of historical and natural significance within the City which is not owned by the City; and,

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2           WHEREAS, the inclusion of Fort Stanley, Fort Higley and the Log Haven  
3 Conservation Area within Sector Maps and various Plan documents as “public lands,” or as “public  
4 open space/natural areas” is not technically correct and could lead to confusion and inappropriate  
5 assumptions by the public; and,  
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7           WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion that owners of private property who utilize  
8 their property to conserve natural resources and to preserve areas of significant historical importance  
9 should not be adversely impacted in any fashion by zoning which serves to confuse or mislead the  
10 public about the ownership or use of such property; and,  
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12           WHEREAS, City Council is of the further opinion that the South City Sector Map and  
13 the Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan should be amended so as to delete  
14 the open space/natural areas designation for Fort Stanley and the Log Haven Conservation Area and  
15 that the referenced plan also should delete all references to Fort Stanley and Fort Higley as “public  
16 lands.”

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
18 KNOXVILLE:

19           SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Knoxville hereby officially and respectfully  
20 requests that appropriate officials within the Metropolitan Planning Commission take any and all  
21 action necessary to amend the South City Sector Map and the Knoxville-Knox County Park,  
22 Recreation and Greenways Plan so as to delete the “open space/natural areas” designation for Fort  
23 Stanley and the Log Haven Conservation Area and so as to delete from the Knoxville-Knox County  
24 Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan all references to Fort Stanley and Fort Higley as “public lands.”  
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SECTION 2: Upon adoption, the City Recorder is respectfully requested and directed to forward a true and correct copy of this Resolution to Mark Donaldson, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, to make him aware of City Council's action with respect to this matter.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

In 1985, the Department of Recreation for Knox County officially became the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department recognizing the need for both recreation programs and a comprehensive park system. The 1990s saw the development of Knoxville's and Knox County's greenway system, both governments put together plans and strategies for the development of greenways throughout the county. Another element of the 1994 Knox County Greenways Plan was the creation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board which was created to oversee the development of the park system.

In preparing the Knoxville Knox County General Plan in 1990, it was found that the City and County were deficient in park space, in terms of recognized standards and in relation to peer metropolitan areas. Goals were established to shore up the deficiencies in parks and protect natural areas. The results, which are the result of public and private contributions, have been remarkable.



*The addition of a skate park provides a public space for users to practice this growing sport.*

Approximately three thousand acres have been acquired for parks and conservation areas. That success story includes:

- Beverly Park
- Clayton Park
- Danny Mayfield Park
- French Memorial Park
- Forks of the River Park
- Forts Higley and Stanley
- Harvest Park
- Holston River Park
- Meade Quarry addition at Ijams Nature Center
- Northwest Sports Park
- Plumb Creek Park
- Powell Station Park
- Three Ridges Golf Course
- Tommy Schumpert Park
- Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
- Victor Ashe Park
- Walker Springs Park
- William Hastie Park

Greenway implementation has been notable. The Bearden, First Creek, Neyland, Pellissippi, Powell, Sequoyah, Sterchi, Ten Mile, Third Creek, and Will Skelton Greenways are among the most prominent in connecting the system.

Additionally, the city and county have been collaborating on the Knox Blount Greenway that involves several local municipalities and the state. With the success of these previous planning efforts, the city and the county recognized that it was time to update the plans from the 1990s. Historically,

the city and county parks departments have developed separate plans. However, recognizing that the citizens of both the city and the county are using city, county and other facilities, it made sense to coordinate the creation of this plan. Through this effort, it is obvious that the city and county are committed to working together and with citizens to provide quality parks and recreation spaces for all. Two groups have specifically been created to advocate for parks and recreation, including:

**Knox County Parks Advisory Board**—serves as an advisory group to the county government regarding parks, recreation, greenways and open space. The Board has advocated for the creation of such trails as Sterchi Greenway, Spring Place Park, Ten Mile



*Will Skelton Greenway Extension*

