

**Minutes of the 20 January 2011
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina**

Present at the 20 January 2011 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Dale England, Commissioner Michele Presnell, Commissioner Marvin Holland, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Amy Sheele with Healthy Yancey, and members of the general public.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to approve the agenda Commissioner Holland made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner England. The vote to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application and Comprehensive Recreation Grounds Master Plan

The first matter of business before the Board was the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant application and comprehensive recreation grounds master plan. County Manager Nathan Bennett informed the Board that Amy Sheele and Suzette Renfro with Graham Children's Health Services and Healthy Yancey have been working on a grant proposal. The Board then recognized Mrs. Sheele to talk about the grant proposal. Mrs. Sheele informed the Board that she and Mrs. Renfro had picked up on the work of Jeff Howell on the PARTF grant from 2008 and 2009. She stated that there were some deficiencies in the grant from last year and that they had been working to fill in those deficiencies. The grant proposal for this year is for \$231,539 of which the county would be responsible for \$115,769 for a 50/50 grant match. This grant would be used for grading and site preparation for the comprehensive recreation grounds. The Board was informed that PARTF money was used for purchasing the land for the comprehensive recreation grounds which might increase the possibility of receiving more funding. Also, Mrs. Sheele stated that if the park could get the initial grading and site work out of the way then it might open up funds for private foundations through Healthy Yancey and Grahams Children's Health Services. Mrs. Sheele stated that she would ask the Board to approve the resolution that would approve the comprehensive recreation grounds master plan and allow county staff to execute the proper documents to apply for the grant. Discussion followed amongst the Board about the particulars of the project and Commissioner Austin made a motion to end discussion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner England and the vote to end discussion was unanimous. Commissioner Presnell then made a motion to approve the resolution for adoption and support of the PARTF grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Austin and the vote to approve was unanimous. (Attachment B)

Frank and Franklin vs. Yancey County

The Board next took up the issue of Frank and Franklin vs. Yancey County. Chairman Riddle informed the Board about the continuing lawsuit that has been going on now for two years. He stated that the Board had been informed by Franklin that there are three conditions to settle the case. The first condition was that the attorney's fees leading up to the original Superior Court case in the amount of \$10,657. The second condition was that Franklin be allowed to fill his alleged term on the Board of Social Services. The third condition was an acknowledgement of the validity of both of the purported appointments of Frank and Franklin. Commissioner England asked if Frank and Franklin if they went to court and lost would they pay both parties attorney's fees. The consensus was yes they could potentially have to pay both parties attorney's fees. Franklin stated that he was ready to go to trial and if this were but to trial the bill could be in excess of \$100,000 as advised by his attorneys. After coming to an informal agreement that paying the attorney's fees were possible Commissioner England then stated that in order for Franklin to have a seat on the Board of Social Services that Judy Buchanan would have to be removed from that board. Commissioner Presnell then stated that she thinks that Judy is in that seat illegally and if she were taken off then the commissioners can put her back on in June. Commissioner Austin then stated she would like to know if having Peter on the DSS board is better than having Judy on the board. Franklin stated that he believed he was the legally appointed member of the DSS board. Chairman Riddle then stated that the previous board of Walter Savage, Jerri Storie, and himself believed there was a conflict of interest. He then asked if either Frank or Franklin had worked at DSS before and if they quit. Frank replied that she quit at DSS because there was things going on down there that she believed were against the law.

Franklin replied that he believed he was the victim of a wrongful termination after he started asking too many questions. Commissioner England then asked if there was anything that could be done other than the three conditions to settle the lawsuit. Franklin responded that there was nothing else that could be done to settle the lawsuit. He stated that he wanted to be sitting on the DSS board by their next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday the 24th of January 2011 at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Presnell then made a motion to give Frank and Franklin all that they were asking for including the attorney's fee, a seat until June on the DSS board for Franklin, and an acknowledgement of the validity of their appointments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holland and failed to pass by a vote of 3 to 2. Commissioner Austin and Chairman Riddle stated that they didn't know any decisions would be made tonight concerning this and that the Board should talk to the county attorney. Discussion followed about where and when to have the next meeting. Chairman Riddle then called a five minute recess to meet in the Yancey County Courtroom with people wanting to discuss Toe River Campground.

Toe River Campground Discussion

After coming out of recess Chairman Riddle welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss Toe River Campground. He stated that this was intended to be a listening sessions and not a bickering session between the seasonal campers and the commissioners. Chairman Riddle also stated that the Board wanted to hear from the seasonal campers in order to make the campground better. The first person to address the Board was John Charlton. Mr. Charlton raised several issues before the Board. These included: the possibility of the campground manager, commissioners, and county manager meeting with the seasonal campers once per month, the amount of money taken into the campground as well as the amount spent on the campground, safety with dogs and underage drivers of golf carts, not having any water, and parties getting out of control at Hoot Owl Hall. The Board listened to all of the concerns by Mr. Charlton and Chairman Riddle stated that some kind of policy or ordinance needs to be put in place about the parties. Chairman Riddle stated that he believes the other issues need to be looked at before the camping season starts and that there might need to be another meeting before that time. The next person to address the Board was Jim Woody who also talked about security and people being in the campground at all hours of the night and being charged a premium price with no amenities. The next person to address the Board was Diane Edwards who wanted to know if Hoot Owl Hall is condemned, if there was a noise ordinance in the campground and what authority Randy Hall has at the campground. Mrs. Edwards was assured that Mr. Hall has authority to take care of any problems that come up at the campground. She was also told that Hoot Owl Hall is not condemned and no one knows of a noise ordinance at the campground. The next person to address the Board was Bobby Phillips who commented on the amount of time people have to wait on the waiting list and something should be done to assure Yancey County residents have access to the campground first. Jerry Ledford addressed the Board and wanted a private contractor to again run Toe River Campground because there is incentive for them to do a good job. Sandra Gouge addressed the amenities that were promised and were never delivered and she also wanted to comment on the selection of items in the camp store. Mr. Hall assured Mrs. Gouge that he had been in contact with several vendors about stocking the store for this season. Cheryl Renfro then stated that there was beer spilled on her daughter inside the campground by a camper and not at Hoot Owl Hall and not a Hispanic problem. Heather Dale and Shane Dale wanted to know when the sewer project was going to start and if there could be an electronic gate with a punch code put up. County Manager Nathan Bennett stated that the sewer project there would begin sometime in February and would have to look at the electronic gate option. John Robinson wanted to know if Hoot Owl Hall was part of the campground and wanted to know about cell phone service at the campground. County Manager Bennett informed Mr. Robinson that Hoot Owl Hall was part of the campground and the cell phone issue had already been talked about. Rita McIntosh told the Board that speed bumps might help with speeding problems in the campground. Clyde Hipps wanted to know about if a well had been drilled for the campground. County Manager Bennett stated that he was not aware of a well being drilled. Mr. Hipps also wanted to know what happened to the sign about "no one allowed past here unless you are a camper". County Manager Bennett also stated that there was some work done in the campground years ago with PARTF money which means that it has to be open to the public. Commissioner Holland commented that this is a work in progress. Chairman Riddle stated that there are a lot of issues that need to be dealt with and the Board wants to do that. Chairman Riddle then recessed the meeting until January 24th at 8:00 am.

Meeting Reconvened

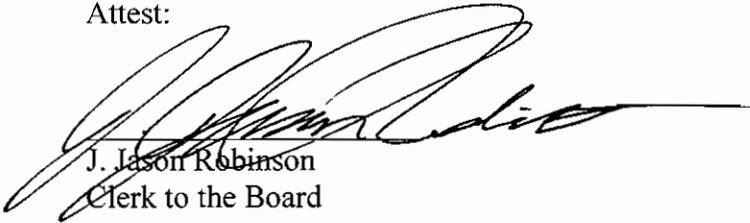
The meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners that was recess on January 20th was reconvened at 8:45 am on January 24, 2011. When the meeting was reconvened Chairman Riddle asked for a motion for the Board to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) for discussion of pending litigation with the county attorney. The motion was made by Commissioner England and seconded by Commissioner Austin. The motion passed with a vote of 3 to 2. When the Board came out of closed session Chairman Riddle stated that no action had been taken.

Adjournment

Having no further business Commissioner Austin made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner England. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

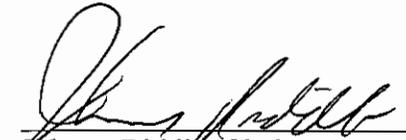
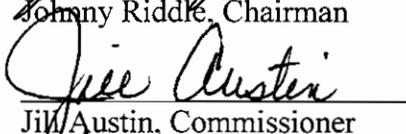
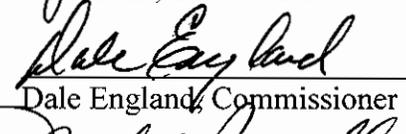
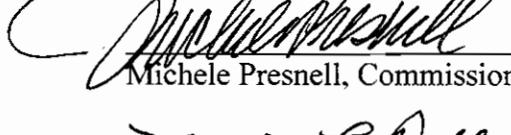
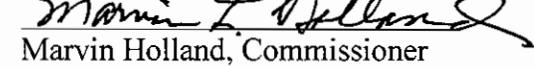
Approved and authenticated on this the _____ 1st _____ day of February 2011.

Attest:


J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)




Johnny Riddle, Chairman

Jill Austin, Commissioner

Dale England, Commissioner

Michele Presnell, Commissioner

Marvin Holland, Commissioner

Attachment A

COUNTY MANAGER
Nathan Bennett



COMMISSIONERS
Jill Austin
Dale England
Marvin Holland
Michele Presnell
Johnny Riddle

YANCEY COUNTY

110 Town Square, Room 11 • Burnsville, North Carolina 28714
PHONE: (828) 682-3971 • FAX: (828) 682-4301

AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
January 20, 2011
5:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Johnny Riddle
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant Application for Comprehensive Recreation Grounds – Nathan Bennett and Amy Sheele, Graham’s Children’s Health Services
- IV. Comprehensive Recreation Grounds Master Plan – Nathan Bennett and Amy Sheele
- V. Frank and Franklin v. Yancey County – Discussion
- VI. Toe River Campground – Discussion
- VII. Adjourn

Attachment B



RESOLUTION

ADOPTION and SUPPORT OF
***THE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR
THE YANCEY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION GROUNDS (CRG)
AND CRG MASTER PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Yancey County Board of Commissioners recognize the importance of adequate recreational opportunities and facilities for the citizens of Yancey County; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund established by the State of North Carolina seeks to meet the needs of local governments in their mission to provide adequate recreational facilities for citizens; and

WHEREAS, Yancey County seeks to apply for a grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to begin the highly anticipated development of the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds facility located on county owned property on Whittington Road in Yancey County; and

WHEREAS, Yancey County supports and endorses the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Yancey County Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. That the Board supports and adopts as policy the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds Master Plan.
2. That the Board authorizes appropriate county officials to make the necessary application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for development funds for the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds.
3. That the Board authorizes appropriate county officials, specifically the Chairman, Clerk and County Manager, to execute all required documents on behalf of Yancey County to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of January, 2011.

SEAL

J. Jason Robinson,
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Johnny Riddle, Chairman



**N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)
2010-2011 Basic Facts and Assurances**

Applicant: Yancey County	County: Yancey
Federal Employer I.D. Number: 56-6000453	
Local Government's Contact Person: Name: Nathan Bennett Title: County Manager Address: 110 Town Square City/State/Zip: Burnsville, NC 28714 Telephone: 828-682-3971 E-mail: Nathan.bennett@yanceycountync.gov	Local Government Manager: Name: Nathan Bennett Title: County Manager Address: 110 Town Square City/State/Zip: Burnsville, NC 28714 Telephone: 828-682-3971 E-mail: Nathan.bennett@yanceycountync.gov
Chief Elected Official: Name: Mr. Johnny Riddle Title: Chairman, County Commissioners Address: 110 Town Square City/State/Zip: Burnsville, NC 28714	Type of project: <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition and Development
Site Control: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owned by local government <input type="checkbox"/> Owned by school board <input type="checkbox"/> Leased by applicant for 25 years or more (Date lease expires:)	Costs rounded to nearest dollar: PARTF funds requested: \$ <u>115,769</u> Local government's matching funds: \$ <u>115,769</u> Total cost of project \$ <u>231,539</u>

Recreation Resources Service (RRS) regional consultant: Luann Bryann

Short title of project: Cane River Park

Provide a brief description of the project: Yancey County is seeking funds to develop a park previously purchased via PARTF. This project will offer a variety of activities to a wide range of user groups. The project will directly address needs identified by the recreational needs survey.

Approval by local governing board: (The local governing board must approve this certification.)

I hereby certify the information contained in the attached application is true and correct and the 50% required matching funds will be available during the project period.

Adopted this day of (give date):

Chief Elected Official:


(Signature)

Johnny Riddle
Chairman, Yancey Co. Board of Commissioners
(Print or Type Name and Title)

(For applications sponsored by two or more local governments, or a local government and school administrative unit, **one copy of this form must be completed and signed by each applicant.** One of the local governments must be identified as the primary sponsor in the "Applicant" section at the top of this page.)

PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE**YANCEY COUNTY
CANE RIVER PARK****PREPARED BY: MCGILL ASSOCIATES
March 18, 2010**

	Item	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
1	Mobilization (not to exceed 3% of total bid)	1	LS	\$5,395	\$5,395
2	Grading, including grassing	1	LS	\$70,000	\$70,000
3	Erosion Control/Stormwater, stormwater ponds to be converted to Youth Fishing Areas	1	LS	\$28,000	\$28,000
4	Walking Trail - 6' wide using screenings	900	LF	\$14	\$12,600
5	Gravel Parking, for 23 spaces, including geogrid	450	TN	\$35	\$15,750
6	Recycled Parking Bumpers	23	EA	\$82	\$1,886
7	Canoe Launch	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500
8	Entrance/Exit Gates	3	EA	\$2,000	\$6,000
9	Signage	1	LS	\$1,500	\$1,500
10	Wood Rail Fence	2,100	LF	\$7	\$14,700
11	Wooden Guardrail	400	LF	\$36	\$14,400
12	Woven Wire Fence and Gate	500	LF	\$15	\$7,500
SUBTOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST					\$185,231
Engineering, Surveying, Administrative (15%)					\$27,785
Contingencies (10%)					\$18,523
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$231,539



McGill
ASSOCIATES
Engineering • Planning • Finance
55 Broad Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Master Plan for the Yancey County Comprehensive Recreational Grounds

Site Analysis:



In a county with a predominately mountainous topography, varying elevation can be a major hindrance for land use and development. In January 2009, Yancey County completed the purchase of a relatively flat, 26 acre tract of property off Whittington Road in the Cane River Township from John Young, R.B. Bailey, et.al. With little variation in topography and 1840 linear feet of Cane River front access, the property suits the geographic needs for constructing a multi-use recreational destination.

The property is bounded by: Whittington Road (SR 1397) to the north, Cane River to the east and south and US 19W towards the west (Attachment #1). The center of the project area is located at 35 degrees 54'53"N; 82 degrees 23' 04" W. This site is half way between Burnsville and Bald Creek and north of US Hwy 19E. Direct public road access is available from US 19W through Whittington Road and the County is working with North Carolina Department of Transportation to assure safe access is maintained.

Topographic relief within the project area is pronounced away from the Cane River and tributary floodplains but is almost completely flat in the survey area. Throughout the corridor, a southeast facing low flood plain extends to within two meters of Cane River to the south, and the project is contained within the flood plain physiographic region. There is an existing riparian forest along the river. The Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council is partnering with the County to establish a conservation easement along the entire river front. Even with significant river access, there are no delineated wetlands on the property. Any wetlands identified in the future will be protected and excluded from development.

The County is committed to preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region and to building upon and enhancing the unique character of the community. Currently there are no existing structures on the site. Historically, the property was used for seasonally adjusted row crop production, tobacco fields, or as pastureland for hay production. Therefore the majority of the site is clear of vegetation and continues to be planted in pasture grass.

An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the site was conducted by The Schiele Museum of Natural History to record and describe the archaeological resources present within the site (Attachment #2). The study concluded, "...because no cultural resources were identified during shovel testing...and backhoe trenching within the project boundaries, no further cultural resource work is recommended for this project and construction should be allowed to proceed."

Yancey Recreation Park soils are primarily BmA, Biltmore and RoA, Rosman, both excellent for soils for recreation areas.

BmA = Biltmore sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded;

RoA= Rosman fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded;

BmA—Biltmore sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded

Setting

Landscape: Mountain valleys

Elevation range: 1,800 to 2,700 feet

Landform: Flood plains dominantly along the Cane, South Toe, and North Toe Rivers

Landform position: Planar to slightly convex bottomland slopes

Shape of areas: Long and narrow

Size of areas: As much as 27 acres

Composition

Biltmore soil and similar inclusions: 90 percent Dissimilar inclusions: 10 percent

Typical Profile

Surface layer:

0 to 8 inches—yellowish brown sand

Underlying material:

8 to 20 inches—yellowish brown loamy fine sand

20 to 23 inches—yellowish brown loamy sand

23 to 37 inches—dark yellowish brown loamy sand

37 to 63 inches—light gray loamy sand that has mottles in shades of brown

Soil Properties and Qualities

Depth class: Very deep

Drainage class: Well drained

General texture class: Sandy

Permeability: Rapid

Available water capacity: Very low

Depth to seasonal high water table: 3.5 to 6.0 feet from December through May

Hazard of flooding: Frequent, throughout the year with standing water for less than 2 days

Shrink-swell potential: Low

Slope class: Nearly level or gently sloping

Extent of erosion: Slight, less than 25 percent of the original surface layer has been removed

Hazard of water erosion: None or slight

Organic matter content (surface layer): Low

Potential frost action: Low

Special climatic conditions: Soil subject to slow air drainage, which allows late spring and early fall frosts

Soil reaction: Strongly acid to slightly alkaline throughout the profile

Parent material: Recent sandy alluvium derived from felsic or mafic, high-grade metamorphic or igneous rock

Depth to bedrock: More than 60 inches

Other distinctive properties: Soil subject to scouring and deposition during flooding

Minor Components

Dissimilar inclusions:

- Soils that are occasionally flooded, on the slightly higher landscapes
- Soils that are moderately well drained, in depressions and backwater areas
- Rosman soils that have a loamy subsoil and are occasionally flooded, in the slightly higher positions

- Moderately well drained Dellwood and Reddies soils that are loamy in the upper part and have strata with a high content of rock fragments at a depth of 8 to 40 inches, along drainageways
- Somewhat poorly drained Bandana soils that are loamy in the upper part and have strata with a high content of rock fragments at a depth of 20 to 40 inches, in depressions, old stream channels, and backwater areas
- Soils that are poorly drained, in depressions, old stream channels, and backwater areas

Similar inclusions:

- Biltmore soils that have a loam or sandy loam surface layer

Land Use

Dominant Uses: Woodland, wildlife habitat, and **recreation**

Other Uses: Pasture and hayland

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification: 4w

Woodland ordination symbol: 8S, based on yellow poplar as the indicator species

RoA—Rosman fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded

Setting

Landscape: Valleys of mountains and intermountain hills

Elevation range: 2,000 to 2,800 feet

Landform: Flood plains dominantly along the Cane, South Toe, and North Toe Rivers

Landform position: Planar to slightly convex bottomland slopes

Shape of areas: Long and narrow or irregular on the wider flood plains

Size of areas: As much as 47 acres

Composition

Rosman soil and similar inclusions: 90 percent Dissimilar inclusions: 10 percent

Typical Profile

Surface layer:

0 to 7 inches—very dark brown fine sandy loam

7 to 14 inches—dark brown fine sandy loam

Subsoil:

14 to 20 inches—dark yellowish brown loamy fine sand

Underlying material:

20 to 25 inches—dark brown fine sandy loam

25 to 31 inches—dark yellowish brown sand

31 to 43 inches—dark yellowish brown loamy sand

43 to 80 inches—dark yellowish brown sand

Soil Properties and Qualities

Depth class: Very deep

Drainage class: Well drained

General texture class: Loamy

Permeability: Moderately rapid

Available water capacity: Low

Depth to seasonal high water table: 3.5 to more than 6.0 feet from December through May

Hazard of flooding: Occasional, throughout the year with standing water for less than 2 days

Shrink-swell potential: Low

Slope class: Nearly level or gently sloping

Extent of erosion: Slight, less than 25 percent of the original surface layer has been removed

Hazard of water erosion: None or slight

Organic matter content (surface layer): Moderate or high Yancey County, North Carolina 147

Potential frost action: Low

Special climatic conditions: Soil subject to slow air drainage, which allows late spring and early fall frosts

Soil reaction: Strongly acid to neutral throughout the profile

Parent material: Alluvium derived from felsic or mafic, high-grade metamorphic or igneous rock

Depth to bedrock: More than 60 inches

Depth to contrasting material: More than 40 inches to deposits of cobbles and gravel that are stratified with sandy or loamy material

Other distinctive properties: Soil subject to scouring and deposition during flooding

Minor Components

Dissimilar inclusions:

- Soils that are rarely flooded, on the wider flood plains
- Somewhat poorly drained Bandana soils that have a subsoil that is loamy in the upper part and have strata with a high content of rock fragments at a depth of 20 to 40 inches, along stream channels
- Well drained Biltmore soils that have a sandy subsoil, on streambanks and along sharp river bends
- Moderately well drained Dellwood and Reddies soils that are loamy in the upper part and have strata with a high content of rock fragments at a depth of 8 to 40 inches, along drainage ways
- Moderately well drained Dillard soils that have more clay in the subsoil than the Rosman soil, on low stream terraces and toeslopes
- Well drained Saunook soils that have more clay in the subsoil than the Rosman soil, on toeslopes
- Poorly drained soils that have loamy to clayey subsoils, in depressions, old stream channels, and backwater areas

Similar inclusions:

- Rosman soils that have a surface layer of sandy loam, very fine sandy loam, loam, or silt loam
- Random areas of soils that are similar to the Rosman soil but have surface layers with less organic matter

Land Use

Dominant Uses: Cropland and ornamental crops, **Recreation**

Other Uses: Pasture and hayland

Recreational Needs:



Yancey County Commissioners-January 2010

It is widely acknowledged that recreational activities are an important component in the overall quality of life in a community. Yancey County official and community leaders cannot begin the process of matching needs to budgetary constraints without those needs being identified. A comprehensive parks and

recreation needs assessment was initiated in 2008. In order to gauge the community's priority interest in and support for the development of a Comprehensive Recreational Grounds (CRG) both quantitative and qualitative data was evaluated.

A targeted survey was conducted in December 2008 (Attachment #3). The survey was available in both English and Spanish and disseminated to approximately 1,800 residents of Yancey County. The response was overwhelming. Input was obtained from 595 people and the surveys were tabulated by the Be Healthy Appalachian Network in Boone, N.C. Other components of the assessment included community meetings, presentations and discussion with local groups and organizations, Community Health Assessment, events on-site at the proposed CRG (community park clean-day and guided walk of the grounds) and secondary data review. A series of meetings were held in the courtroom of the Yancey County Courthouse with varying degrees of participation, but with a great deal of input, opinion and enthusiasm for the proposed project.

Based upon community response and assessment data collected from various means, there is a clear need and desire for the development of the CRG. With the assessment data in hand, Yancey County is uniquely positioned to respond to the recreational priorities of the community, through the development of a comprehensive plan for the CRG, implement Phase I of development, and cultivate networks and linkages to continue to process of making the CRG the recreational center of the comprehensive countywide plan.

There are several recreational needs identified by the citizens of Yancey County during the comprehensive planning process (Attachment #4). The completion of Phase I will set the stage for addressing the top five priority areas. These areas include:

- 1- community active living sites for families and children-playground areas,
- 2- pavilion/picnic areas for passive recreation and green spaces for relaxation and socialization,
- 3- access to safe, public walking/hiking trails,
- 4- venues for outdoor concerts or festivals, and
- 5- public river access.

Future site development will include basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, volleyball, soccer fields and tennis courts.

Phase I

Active Living Sites for Families and Children:

During the fall of 2000, citizens first identified childhood obesity as a priority child health concern during communitywide listening sessions. Local data from school year 2009-2010

indicates 54% of 6th grade students at East Yancey Middle School and 46% at Cane River Middle School had a BMI > 85th percentile. Unfortunately, behaviors contributing to youth obesity are on the rise. In 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2007 GCHS conducted the NC Middle School version of CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in the county middle schools. Between 1998 and 2007 the YRBS reported increases in students reporting: a belief they are overweight, trying to lose weight (43.3% to 47.3%), and exercising to control weight (58% to 71%). However, only 32.2% report being physically active for at least 30 minutes for at least four of the past seven days prior to the survey. North Carolina EatSmart MoveMore ranked NC counties on several key health indicators. Yancey County received a D+ on meeting physical activity recommendations with 59% of youth not getting the recommended physical activity.

Yancey County has unique features that contribute to a high level of need for attention to the growing obesity trend. It is the most mountainous county in North Carolina. Many roads are narrow and with no bike lanes and few sidewalks, walking or bicycling can be dangerous. Children often have limited access to any type of park or active living site. Many students ride the bus for extended periods of time, come home to remote communities and find little to do but watch television. Loss of local industry has forced many parents to work out of county, increasing commute times and decreasing leisure time to spend in family fitness activities. A recent study published by Action for Children entitled Place Matters: Where Children Grow Up Can Help Determine Health Outcomes (2010) notes "It is clear that being healthy and fit in adulthood is at least partly determined by the communities we live in as children... When children do not have access to healthy environments or opportunities to make healthy choices, their health and quality of life are often compromised." Creating an environment where children can grow up healthy can be complex and challenging. The development of the CRG is a step in the right direction.



Kid Mountain

At the present time, most Yancey County's active living sites are limited and primarily located within the Town of Burnsville which limits use by families living in rural areas of the county. Kid Mountain, a community built playground and the Ray-Cort Park are the two primary sites and are located within ½ mile of each other within the Burnsville Township. Patience Park provides access to an active living site in the South Toe area of Yancey County. The CRG offers the opportunity to expand access. Located within sight of Highway 19E, which bisects the county, CRG is accessible to a wider array of residents, particularly those living in the western part of the county.

Pavilion/picnic areas for passive recreation and green spaces for relaxation and socialization:

Another element identified as a high need area is that of passive recreation and green spaces for relaxation and socialization. The inclusion of green space at CRG will establish the character of the facility and enhance the general character of the region. People need to gather and enhance their sense of community.

Yancey County has two small parks, Ray Cort Park and Patience Park that are currently offering these amenities, albeit not at the level needed by major county user groups as they are often at

capacity. It is clear from the survey responses that these facilities are not adequate for the entire county and residents are not able to readily access them.

Ray Cort Park was built in the late seventies and has approximately three acres. Located only ¼ mile from the Town Square in Burnsville, it offers families the opportunity to picnic while participating in a variety of activities: basketball, horseshoes, skate boarding, swimming, and a child play area. Patience Park was built in the mid 1960's and comprises approximately 15-20 acres. The park is located ~10 miles from Burnsville on the South Toe River near Hwy 80. It has over 200 camping spots and a number of support facilities: swimming pool, bathrooms, game room, basketball court, dance hall and a general store. Being located on a scenic section of the South Toe River, which is stocked, makes Patience Park a popular fishing location.

Unfortunately, access is barrier for residents who do not live in this area of the county.

Additional information, current state and long-term plans for these two facilities is discussed on pages 11-12 in the System Wide Comprehensive Master Plan (Attachment #5).

Access to safe, public walking/hiking trails:

According to the recreation needs survey, walking/running areas are the highest rated fitness activities for the respondents. Unfortunately, Yancey County has few areas to walk for fitness other than the side of the roads, which for obvious reasons is very dangerous.

Exercisers have a one half mile stretch of road in the far western section of the county (Walking Road) as the least dangerous alternative. While the high school track and the parking lots for the middle and elementary schools are available for exercise, they are only available outside of school hours. On the weekends the gates are frequently locked, making the parking areas and track inaccessible. The town of Burnsville has a small network of sidewalks, many of which have moderate to steep grades that make an extended walking trail impractical for older users groups and those with physical challenges.



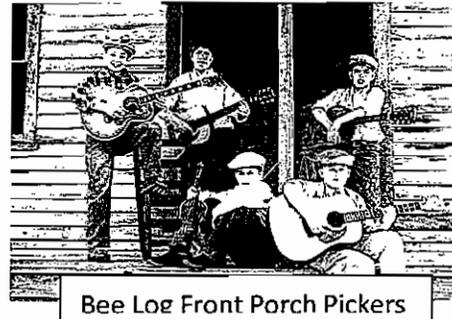
Fit Families Fitness Challenge
Caught Walking Participant

The topography of CRG property will allow for a virtually flat trail around the entire perimeter of the park making it accessible to all user groups. With a documented increase in citizen's 65 and older interested in and involved in outdoor activities, CRG will provide a safe, mildly strenuous trail. Currently, the high school cross country team practices by running along the sides of Hwy 19E and at several points cross the highway during training runs. Development of the trail at CRG will offer a safe site for both practice and potentially cross country meets.

There are several community groups who have identified the need for additional public walking/hiking trails who are willing to partner with the county in the development of the trail. Healthy Yancey, Yancey County's certified Healthy Carolinians Partnership, has been working to identify and map safe walking sites and will partner with the county to publicize the availability of the trail. High Peaks Trails Association has identified the trail as a priority in the Comprehensive Pathway Plan and foresees the trail to play a major role in the future development of a countywide greenway. Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council is working to establish a link with the CRG trail to extend the trail to the Yancey County Humane Society (Attachment #6) and Cane River Middle School.

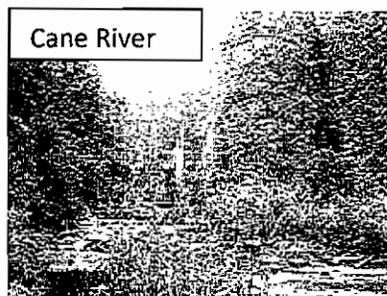
Venues for outdoor concerts or festivals:

While one of North Carolina's smallest counties (84th of 100), Yancey County's 18,421 (US Census Data) residents make up a diverse population that shares a long, distinctively mountain history. Yancey County still maintains over 600 family owned farms. With over 75% of current residents having been born in North Carolina, many families can trace their ancestry back to the farmers who braved the mountain wilderness to establish their homesteads in defiance of the British mandate not to settle in the mountains. Additionally, 18.2% of our population is over the age of 65, and represent a historical treasure trove of heritage and tradition, just waiting to be discovered and shared, enriching future generations.



Bee Log Front Porch Pickers

Working with the Yancey County Cultural Resources Commission (CRC), a 501 (c) 6 non-profit organization instituted and mandated by the Yancey County government in 2001, Yancey County will include in the development of CRG an outdoor event area for concerts and festivals. Utilization of this component of the CRG will serve a two-fold mission, to promote, protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the rural mountains of western North Carolina while seeking to contribute to the economic and social vitality of the region. Respondents to the Recreational Needs Assessment gave the need for a venue for outdoor events and festivals a high priority ranking. Currently, the Burnsville Town Square and Hoot Owl Hall at Patience Park are the only government owned venues for outdoor concerts or festivals. These sites can only accommodate a few hundred visitors and are severely limited by parking and access to public restrooms facilities.



Cane River

Public river access:

Yancey County is an area of significant beauty. In addition to the previously discussed topography, the county is drained by two river systems, the Cane and South Toe Rivers. Both have their headwaters in the Black Mountain Range, noted for trout and game fish as well as rafting and canoeing opportunities. Unfortunately, "North Carolina's pristine rivers, streams, farms and wildlife habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate. In the last twenty years, developed land in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains has increased 77%, from 475,000 acres to 840,000 acres. This loss of rural land is equal to 2 ½ times the land area of Mitchell and Yancey counties!" (Toe River Valley Watch: www.trvw.com). Yancey County respondents to the Recreational Needs Survey recognized the need to preserve and protect the river frontage along the CRG and also the need to create a public river access area for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing in the beautiful Cane River. Yancey County is partnering with several organizations including Toe River Valley Watch (TRVW), Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council and North Carolina Wildlife Commission.

"In 2008, some 93,000 trout anglers spend close to \$150 million on trips and equipment in western North Carolina, supporting roughly 2,000 jobs." (Toe River Journal, Summer 2010).

River access at the park will not only provide the community with recreational opportunities but economic benefits as well.

Historically, there has not been any state or local regulations for the establishment of public river access site, but that trend is reversing. The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission is working with North Carolina Department of Transportation to ensure river access at appropriate sites (Attachment #7). Locally, people have been dependent upon the kindness of private landowners to allow parking and river access. This is not a long-term solution, as landowners change the inclination of many new owners is to deny public access. TRVW has developed a Master Plan for canoe tails in Mitchell and Yancey counties which highlights the different river access points and fishing opportunities. The map will be printed and distributed this spring. Included in the plan is the canoe access point at the CRG. Currently the only County owned river access point is located at Patience Park on the South Toe River and the CRG site will open up the Cane River for public use.

Phase II

Additional Needs To Be Addressed In Future Development:

The CRG Master Plan includes additional recreational needs to be developed on-site: soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, in the master plan to address to be constructed in later phases of program development (Attachment #8).

Since 1975 youth sports programs have blossomed from only baseball and basketball programs for ages 8-12, into a self supporting organization that has expanded programming for both boys and girls. The Yancey County Youth League Association (YCYLA) was formed in the early 1990's and currently offers programs in baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, football and cheerleading. As the sole provider of organized sports programming to the 1,940 youth league age children in Yancey County, the YCYLA depends upon support from the local school system in the form of facilities. Even with strong school support, facilities are limited and meeting the needs of the growing number of youth participants is a challenge. In the late 1980's both East Yancey and Cane River Middle Schools removed the lights from their baseball fields, thus eliminating a significant number of practice hours available at these sites. Lincoln Park, a county-owned community ball field, is the only other facility available to these programs. The additional of ball fields will ease the burden of planning and scheduling youth sports and allow for the expansion of these programs.



Conclusion and Recommendations:

The comprehensive recreational needs assessment coupled with local secondary data, provides valuable information on Yancey County's recreational infrastructure deficits and gaps in services for diverse user groups. Yancey County Parks and Recreation has been diligent in its efforts to provide a vast array of services within the capacity of the existing parks. However, limited availability of these facilities restricts the scope and reach of their services. The major recommendation is the construction of a multi-use park as soon as feasible to augment the existing facilities that are not adequate for Yancey County's dynamic population groups.

Program Description:

The main purpose of the Comprehensive Recreational Grounds (CRG) is to meet the community identified recreational needs while providing cultural, natural and historic experiences as well as recreational opportunities. The multi-use facility will augment the services and amenities provided at the two small parks (Ray-Cort and Patience Park) currently serving Yancey County. A larger, conveniently located, multi-use park reflects the identified needs of a diverse mix of user groups and will make effective and efficient use of resources while capturing the full value of past investments and maximize available resources. It is a development goal for the CRG to be the greenest park in North Carolina. In addition to specific water features designed to both serve as aesthetic highlights for the park and as storm water collection points, the feasibility to include an alternative source of power for the park, such as wind, solar, or hydro electricity is being investigated.

While the CRG site will be developed for both active and passive recreational opportunities, the initial priority will be given to the community-identified passive recreation activities: playgrounds, picnic areas, walking/running trails, open areas for outdoor concerts and festivals, and river access points.

Following the aggregation of the data collected through the comprehensive needs assessment, Yancey County began the process of designing the CRG. On January 28, 2010, Yancey County Commissioners appointed a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board which provided input and guidance in the development of CRG. Working with several professionals, further evaluations for site development were completed. Engineers from McGill Associates assisted with the completion of a proposed project map (Attachment #8). The Schiele Museum of Natural History completed “An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Recreation Park” (Attachment #2), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the property and issued a general permit to construct a canoe launch area (Attachment #9).

Due to the size and scope of the park, development will be completed in phases as funding permits. As part of the comprehensive planning process, commercial and private funding contributions will be pursued. A fundraising and incentive program for commercial funding, naming opportunities and private donations will be developed which will encourage various industries and private citizens throughout the county to make financial contributions to the development of the CRG.

Phase I will provide for site preparation, grading, and fencing which will lay the groundwork for addressing the five priority areas identified by the community during the recreational needs assessment.

Two playground areas are strategically located within the park’s perimeter. These sites are planned in areas that will allow optimal supervision by parents/guardians while not constraining them to small section of the park. The selection of play pieces included will accommodate children of all ages, including those with physical challenges. Construction and design will adhere to the guidelines established by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s Handbook for Public Playground Safety and complement the natural beauty of the park.

Three picnic areas are located along the river frontage with easy access to the walking/running trails and the fishing piers and canoe launch site. The 1.3 miles of planned walking/running trails are designed to meander around and through the park giving users ample opportunity for fitness and relaxation. The surface will be packed cinder and suitable for strollers, wheelchairs and bicycles. Partnering with Toe River Valley Watch and Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council will support expansion of the trail to include areas adjacent to Cane River Middle School and continuing to Yancey County Humane Society (Attachment #5). Three ponds are planned for the park to not only enhance the park's natural features but to also serve as storm water collection points that can be used to irrigate future playing fields.

Phase II will provide for the organized recreational opportunities to be provided at the CRG.

A three field baseball/softball complex consisting of two youth league size fields (250') and a larger field (350') will accommodate the youth leagues program and provide a facility for hosting tournaments as a revenue generator for the County as well as hosting organizations. The low emphasis place on adult league softball resulted in the Advisory Committee recommending only one field over 300'. All fields will have scalped infields to accommodate both baseball and softball. Portable pitching mounds will be used and base anchors will be installed at the various distances required by sanctioning organizations such as USSSA, ASA and AAU, and portable fencing will be available to gauge the required outfield distances. Safety features, such as a pitchers eye (behind the batter) and a batter's eye (in center field) will allow players to pick up the ball as it comes off the bat or out of the pitchers' hand. All sideline and outfield fencing will be covered with a fence topper to reduce the risk of injury to the players. Pitching machine outlets on the field will be covered with approved caps. Each dugout will be enclosed with chain link and covered with a roof.

Strategically locating the concession area in the baseball/softball complex will provide centralized access and convenience. Keeping with the cultural heritage of the region, plans for the exterior of the concession stand will be constructed of recycled barns and configured so as to reflect the image of an old county store, complete with a wrap around porch.

The lower eight plus acres will be developed for multiple uses. Five youth soccer fields-two within a larger regulation size field-will be configured in such a way as to provide a large site that can be utilize for additional uses. The installation of a covered stage will allow for large outdoor concerts that could accommodate two-three thousand visitors. Plans will be developed with Yancey County Transportation Authority to design countywide shuttle services to the events to reduce the stress on traffic and parking at the CRG.

Additional features to be developed in Phase II include two tennis courts and two outdoor basketball courts.

Phase III will provide for expanded use of the facility through the installation of lighting.

Physical Needs: Identify the physical needs of the park site.

Within the scope of the park design, it will not be necessary to acquire any additional land. However as an undeveloped tract, the site will require capital improvements.

Due to the relatively flat topography of the property, limited grading and site preparation will be required for the implementation of Phase I. No healthy, mature trees along the river front will need to be harvested as the park is constructed. Trees and vegetation will be retained as a buffer for stream bank stabilization.

Working with the Environmental Health Section of the Yancey County Health Department has allowed for appropriate permitting of the property for appropriate sanitation. Alternative water and sewer options are also being explored and include water tanks to store potable water and passive solar self composting toilets and waterless urinals. Port-A-Johns are always a solution for supplementing built facilities if necessary for larger events.

Other recreational buildings/facilities to be developed include:

Phase I:

- grading, including grassing
- erosion control/stormwater, stormwater ponds to be converted to fishing areas
- gravel road, including geogrid (approximately 2,000 LF at 12' wide and approximately 200 LF at 24' wide)
- walking trail-6' wide using screening
- gravel parking for 234 spaces, including geogrid
- paved parking for 8 handicapped spaces including signage
- recycled parking bumpers-23
- canoe launch
- entrance/exit gates
- signage
- wood rail fence-2,100 LF
- wooden guardrails-400 LF
- woven wire fence and gate-500 LF
- elevated stage-12' X24' wooden platform with cover

Phase II:

- two small baseball fields-210' to 250', including fencing, dugout, moveable bases and pitching mound and grassing
- three small soccer fields, including striping
- large soccer field, including striping
- wooden fishing pier, handicap accessible
- portable aluminum bleachers (4 row, 15' length)
- storage building

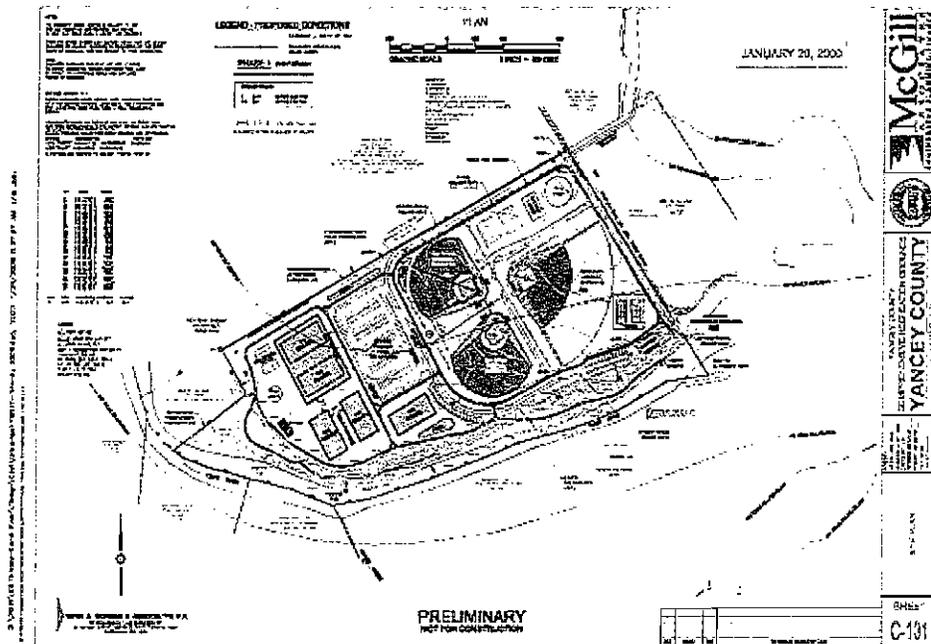
Phase III:

- lighting

Project Costs:

The property is currently owned by the county (Attachment #10). Cost estimates for property development have been projected by McGill Associates (Attachment #11). Phase I of the project is projected at \$231,539 with a total project cost of ~\$1.8 million.

Site plans and illustrations depicting the boundaries of land to be acquired and the location of facilities.



Attachment #8 depicts the conceptual drawing of the proposed park developed by McGill Associates Engineers. Enlisting the services of this professional organization and having accurate renderings assures appropriate site utilization. The design indicates a large portion of the park will focus on organized sports, but also demonstrates significant passive recreational opportunities such as walking, picnicking and river sports. Support facilities such as parking, concessions and restrooms are included to accommodate families and buses for tournaments. All decisions relating to park design have been based upon the needs assessment and public input.

Attachment #12 demonstrates the property site location and Attachment #13 the property boundaries.

Public Involvement:

As documented throughout the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds Master Plan, public input and involvement has been the primary tenet of program development. Yancey County has involved a wide range of citizenry participation. In addition to the high level of community participation in the Recreational Needs Survey (n=595), documented public meetings and community presentations, several local organizations have expressed an interest in partnering with the County to bring this very worthwhile project to fruition. These include but are not limited to:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Partnership Interest</u>
Graham Children’s Health Services	Grant Writing, Community Organization, and Fundraising
Toe River Valley Watch	River Access Development
Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development	Trail and Greenway Development
High County Trails Association	Trail Development
Yancey County Youth League	Organized Youth Sport Program Development
Cultural Resource Commission/Traditional Voices	Outdoor Events/Concerts
Healthy Yancey	Trails/Hiking/Walking
School Health Advisory Committee	Youth Activities

Continued coordination with these and other organizations assure the CRG is development with continued community engagement.

As a follow-up to the assessment process two events were planned to further involve the community and to introduce them to the site. Participation in the community clean-up day demonstrates the commitment and excitement that has been generated surrounding the development of the park. On March 7, 2009 over 100 men, women and children spent the day completing various tasks designed to prepare the site for Phase I development. This clean-up event saved the taxpayers of Yancey County an estimated \$10,000-\$15,000. A second event was held during May 2009 as part of the Fit Families Fitness Challenge. Community members were invited to the site for a guided walk and tour of the proposed facility. Events of this nature and community engagement and participation will continue to be critical to the success of the development of the CRG.

NOTE: In order to conserve resources, attachments referenced within this Master Plan are included within the PARTF Application and not resubmitted here.

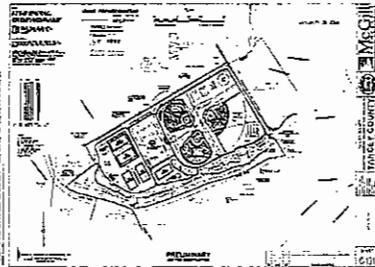
Description and Justification for the Project

Title of the Project: Yancey County Comprehensive Recreational Grounds

Local Government Name: Yancey County



Located in western North Carolina, Yancey County has spectacular natural beauty characterized by rugged mountain peaks, rushing rivers and ample forest land. Unfortunately, these scenic, natural resources limited the development of traditional recreation sites. In 2003, with generous funding support from PARTF, Yancey County was able to purchase 26 acres on the Whitt Bottoms property for the development of Cane River Park. Located within sight of Highway 19E, which bisects the county, Comprehensive Recreational Grounds (CRG) is accessible to the entire populace. CRG will be a focal point of active living, socialization, entertainment and recreation in Yancey County and has been identified in the countywide recreation plan as a multi-use facility that will augment smaller county parks being used to maximum capacity but only serving limited groups.



Successfully developing CRG is dependent upon community participation; therefore an inclusive planning process has been essential. With significant community input and planning, a comprehensive plan, reflecting the identified needs of diverse user groups, has been developed for the facility. The plan insures that: 1-local needs and resources, both financial and natural are utilized as efficiency as possible; 2-the property will be accessible to diverse population groups, both the able bodied and those with special needs; and 3-a beautiful parcel will be preserved for public use in perpetuity. The interest expressed at public meetings

indicates the demand exists for a park with a variety of amenities including organized sports and passive recreation. Cane River Park (CRG) will respond to a community-identified, documented need.

Yancey County is home to 18,421 people. With a 2009, per capita income of only \$19,431 (NC Dept. of Commerce 2009), the county has the lowest per capita income in the state. Facing severe economic restraints, many residents' only option for recreation is at public sites. The nationwide epidemic of childhood obesity has been well documented and Yancey County children are not immune to the condition. In fact, *Action for Children (2004) reported 23% of Yancey County's children were overweight exceeding the statewide rate of 17%.* Yancey County is also experiencing a dramatic shift in the age and ethnicity of the populace. The county has a substantial Hispanic population who function not as seasonal workers, but full time residents. Comprising over 5% of the total population, this group is the largest minority in the county. The county has also experienced a 30% increase in citizens 55-59 with a 13.2% increase in those 60 and over (US Census Data). Addressing the recreational needs/interests of these population groups has been a priority in planning the CRG.

Phase I of the multi-phase project addresses the community-identified priority reasons for establishing the park. The needs assessment, as well as surveys from years past, indicate a high interest in walking trails for leisure and fitness, open areas for picnics and family outings, outdoor concerts and festivals and public river access. In addition to walking trails and picnic areas, this unusually flat piece of land will quickly be usable for soccer and football fields. Several community partners are interested in working with the county to establish programming for the park once these simple improvements are made.

A primary goal of the County is for CRG is as green as possible. By utilizing the peninsula's high water table and the land's natural topography, three small dual purpose ponds will be created for storm water collection points for irrigation and as fishing ponds. These water features will serve as an aesthetic highlight to the park. The feasibility to include an alternative source of power for the park, such as wind, solar, or hydro electricity, is being investigated.

Yancey County is committed to the development of CRG; however, the County will be unable to construct a comprehensive facility designed to meet the needs of the diverse citizenry without financial assistance. Yancey has just recently moved to Tier 2 even though it has lost two of the three major manufacturing facilities in the past five years. While some would say economic times are too severe to pursue recreation projects such as this, the leadership of the County believes the value and importance of public recreational sites has never been more apparent. Therefore, funding assistance is being requested to implement Phase I of the plan. Since the property topography will require very little grading the park will quickly be user ready allowing for a highly productive use of PARTF funds.

AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
December 30, 2010
9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Johnny Riddle
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Parks and Recreation Workshop – Jeff Howell, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
- IV. Adjourn

NOTES

- Special Meeting Called to order by Chairman Riddle. All Commissioners present. Staff present, Nathan Bennett, CM/Asst Clerk, Jamie McMahan, County Planner, Jeff Howell, P&R Director, Randy Hall, P&R Staff member. Meeting was for the purpose of conducting a parks and recreation department workshop.
- **Motion to approve agenda by Commissioner England, second by Commissioner Holland – Unanimously approved.**
- Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Howell advised the board he has been called into active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves and his last day of work for the county will be January 6, 2011. Will return to county service sometime around the first of January 2012.
- Director Howell advised that the past two years of operation by parks and recreation staff has been a learning experience and that it requires a considerable amount of his time for administrative tasks. In the meantime, he has not had available time to devote to other parks and recreation projects such as the development of the CRG.
- Discussion centered on the operation of Toe River Campground
- There were a number of complaints voiced by seasonal campers as the 2010 camping season neared closure including three main infrastructure issues at the campground: Water, Septic Tank problem, and Electric Service problems on Strawberry Lane.
- Water was repaired this summer and is tested monthly by an outside laboratory. Results are posted at the campground store and bathhouse. There is persistent problem with the quantity of water as there is a deeded water rights to the prior owner and they use the water for crop irrigation.
- Electric Service to Strawberry Lane has been repaired – bids were received and the low bid of \$17,490 was awarded to Brian Cooper Electric. This repair should solve the complaints of poor electrical service in the campground, particularly on Strawberry Lane.
- Septic tank malfunctioned near end of this past camping season – health department has been assisting county with plan to repair. Pump and hauled waste through end of season. Health Department has designed a replacement system to serve the affected areas. Estimated cost to repair is \$25,000. If allowed to proceed, the septic system will be replaced and operational before the start of the next camping season.

- **Motion to authorize county staff to proceed with making the needed septic repairs, to include staff to prepare a request for bid proposals and advertise the project in the newspaper, transfer funds for the repair work from unused parks and recreation salaries. Motion by Chairman Riddle, second by Commissioner Presnell- Unanimously approved.**
- Options for Management of the campground was discussed with 2 basic options: continued operation by county parks and recreation staff and operation by an independent contractor.
- With operation by independent contractor, county would still be responsible for all these infrastructure repairs but have no say in how the contractor operates the campground or deals with complaints. Continued operation of the campground by parks and recreation staff would allow the county to address all issues directly and be responsible for proper care of facilities.
- **Commissioners unanimously agreed to appoint Randy Hall the campground manager.** Mr. Howell recommended continued operation by parks staff and highly recommend Mr. Randy Hall to be named the Campground Manager. Mr. Hall has worked the past two years at the campground and is well respected by the campers and brings a wealth of experience from his past service with Yancey County Schools
- **Motion to appoint Randy Hall Campground Manager was made by Commissioner Austin, Second by Commissioner Holland – Unanimously Approved.**
- Commissioners also discussed working to determine a sound legal policy for the rental of Hoot Owl Hall for private functions. County staff directed to research rental agreements and other policies for other such rental spaces and provide information to the Commission at a future meeting.
- Commissioners agreed to meet with the seasonal campers on January 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to further hear from them regarding issues that could be addressed prior to the next camping season.
- Director Howell briefly made the board aware of the Comprehensive Master Plan for Parks and Recreation facilities and that it is necessary for grant applications. He further advised that the county is in the process of making application to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for phase one development of the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds facility located on Whittington Road.
- **Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Holland, Second by Commissioner Austin – Unanimously Approved.**