



PARKS NEWS

P.O. Box 389, Newton, North Carolina 28658 (828) 465-8381
Web: www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Parks/Mountain-Creek-Park or
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MountainCreekParkNC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 4, 2016

CONTACT: Susan Ballbach, Senior Planner, Catawba County Planning and Parks
828-465-8381 or Parks@CatawbaCountyNC.gov

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR NEW PARK IN SOUTHEASTERN CATAWBA COUNTY

NEWTON, NC – Catawba County is seeking public input for design ideas and amenities to be included in the future Mountain Creek Park. The park site is located in the Sherrills Ford area and will be accessed off Little Mountain Road. The future park consists of approximately 589 acres, which were obtained through a public-private partnership among Catawba County, Duke Energy, and Crescent Resources and grants from the Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Land negotiations were also a key component of Duke Energy's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing Agreement.

The County has selected Charlotte based Wirth & Associates, Inc., Planners and Landscape Architects, as the lead design consultant for the master planning of Mountain Creek Park. Formed in 1994, Wirth & Associates specializes in park master planning and design services and has completed master planning and implementation design for over 75 park facilities and over 30 miles of greenway and hiking trails.

Two conservation easements covering the entire acreage restrict the development of the park to exclusively passive outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition to these easements, the site has significant natural habitats and river bank areas that should be preserved and enhanced. Ball fields, soccer fields and other heavy land-disturbing recreational activities are not only prohibited by the conservation easements, but they would also do irreparable damage to the significant habitat areas and forests throughout the property.

Mountain Creek Park is envisioned as a destination nature park with miles of hiking and biking trails, nature themed activities, educational opportunities and wildlife observation. Picnic facilities, primitive camping, canoe/kayak portages and fishing piers are all possibilities to take advantage of the Lake Norman water frontage. However, the final park layout and amenities will be determined through a

series of public input forums and interaction with the County Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

The public is invited to attend one of the following input meetings to help shape the design of this park. Both meetings will be identical, but different times and locations are scheduled to help fit busy schedules.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – Sherrills Ford Elementary School, Cafeteria

8103 Sherrills Ford Rd, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

The Forum will run from 6:30pm to 9:00pm—Formal presentations will be at 7:00 and 8:00pm, with breakout sessions between presentations

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – Catawba County Government Center, Upstairs Meeting Room

100 A South West Blvd, Newton, NC 28658

The Forum will run from 6:30pm to 9:00pm – Formal presentations will be at 7:00 and 8:00pm, with breakout sessions between presentations

For more information about Mountain Creek Park or the community input sessions, please call Catawba County Planning and Parks at (828) 465-8381 or visit www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Parks/Mountain-Creek-Park.

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