



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to approve the renewal of the Hollow Rock Nature Park Interlocal Agreement with Orange County and the Town of Chapel Hill and to approve the Hollow Rock Nature Park Management Plan with Orange County.

### **Background/Justification**

In September 2006, four local governments (Orange County, Durham County, City of Durham, and Town of Chapel Hill) signed an agreement for the acquisition, planning and operation of the Hollow Rock portion of the 1991 New Hope Creek Corridor Open Space Master Plan. Hollow Rock Nature Park opened to the public in 2016 as a Durham County- and Orange County-managed park owned by Durham County, Orange County, and Chapel Hill. As part of the Interlocal Agreement, all parties agreed to develop a management plan for the park. Open Space Program staff have worked with Orange County staff for several months to review and update the Interlocal Agreement and to develop the management plan for the park.

Since opening, Hollow Rock Nature Park has been a well-used and appreciated park with its 1.5 miles of hiking trails, access to New Hope Creek, and connection to Duke Forest on the north side of Erwin Road. Orange County manages a parking area off Erwin Road. Durham County and Orange County staff are currently working together on the second phase of Park development which will include improvements to the Hollow Rock store, considerations for restroom facilities, new and additional park and trail signage, and, for Durham County, trail expansion and management of the recently acquired Penny land.

### **Policy Impact**

The shared operation of Hollow Rock Nature Park with Orange County aligns with Strategic Plan Focus Area: Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment, Objective SI 1 – Plan for long-term use of County land, facilities, and equipment through Initiative SI 1c to create, maintain, and preserve vibrant, inclusive spaces in the County; Objective SI 3 – Preserve and restore the natural and built environment through Initiative SI 3c – Improve water quality through equitable and efficient use of resources and land protection and through Initiative SI 3d – protect and restore natural resources, land, recreational, historical, and rural spaces.

Additionally, Durham’s recently adopted [Comprehensive Plan](#) includes policies that support fee simple ownership and protection of land to conserve significant natural areas, ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife corridors (Policies 78, 79, 83, 98) and safeguard drinking water sources for Durham and nearby communities (Policy 86). The Comprehensive Plan also includes policies that support the use and management of County-owned open space lands, including County parks and preserves, to improve their function and quality as “green infrastructure” (Policies 100 and 108) and promote equitable community access to green space and recreational opportunities (Policy 112).

The Comprehensive Plan’s [Place Type Map](#) includes a Place Type that acknowledges the importance of conservation and recreational lands: Recreation and Open Space lands are community spaces that “*will remain free from development, with the exception of minimal*



*buildings or structures to support recreational and cultural activities where desired and appropriate. . . Where appropriate, supportive development like trails, restrooms, resting places, and places for learning may be included to provide nearby residents with access to recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities through parks, trails, preserves, and cemeteries.*

**Procurement Background**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact**

N/A

**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the renewal of the Hollow Rock Nature Park Interlocal Agreement with Orange County and the Town of Chapel Hill and approve the Hollow Rock Nature Park Management Plan with Orange County.