



D U R H A M

Open Space & Trails Commission

Durham City-County Planning Department ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

October 21, 2019

To: The Board of County Commissioners
From: Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST)
Re.: County Open Space Program / Update

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At the October meeting of the Durham Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission (DOST), the County Open Space Staff presented an update of the County's program for open space protection and an overview of its progress toward implementing the goals set forth in the County's adopted open space plans. Describing timely acquisitions leveraged, when possible, by grants and partnerships with outside environmental groups, this update included information on anticipated acquisitions to benefit water quality in the Little River corridor (e.g., where Buffalo Creek flows into the Little River, and in the Little River uplands), as well as similar efforts in the New Hope Creek corridor. This update also included reports on the County's progress in East Durham toward opening its Santee Rd. property to public access, and indicated a strong interest in beginning acquisitions along the Panther Creek corridor leading to Falls Lake—a high DOST priority that, beyond defending Falls Lake's water quality, would make possible a future greenway stretching from East Durham to Cardinal Point on the Lake. DOST views the County's Open Space program as exemplary and has urged the City of Durham to duplicate the County's efforts. DOST fully endorses the progress reported in this update and applauds the County's diligence in making the opportunities specified in its adopted open space plans a reality.