

SMITHVILLE-TO-JV WASHAM GREENWAY  
AND WESTMORELAND ROAD MULTI-USE PATH



J.V. Washam Elementary to Smithville Park Greenway EB-5777



Kimley»Horn

## WHAT ARE GREENWAYS?

Greenways are linear parks that connect people and places. They link neighborhoods, offices, parks, schools and shopping centers. Greenways in Cornelius include pedestrian and bicycle trails that commonly incorporate bridges, boardwalks and asphalt construction. They preserve natural areas and create buffers along creeks and streams. Greenways offer convenient, safe, accessible opportunities for recreation, fitness and non-motorized access to important destinations.

### **BENEFITS OF GREENWAYS**

- **Provide a safe opportunity for active transportation**
- **Improve health and fitness**
- **Improve air and water quality**
- **Conserve plant and animal habitat**
- **Commune with nature**

### **QUICK FACTS**

- **Cornelius has 3.5 miles of developed greenways with an additional 2.7 miles nearing construction.**
- **Cornelius has 3.8 miles of developed multi-use paths with an additional 0.5 miles nearing construction.**
- **The Cornelius Greenway Master Plan calls for a total of 17 miles of greenway trails and 22 miles of multi-use paths.**
- **When complete, a total of 39 miles of trails will provide convenient access for people to safely bike or walk throughout Town.**

## HOW WILL A GREENWAY AFFECT MY PROPERTY VALUE?

Greenways are amenities. Nationwide studies show parks, greenways, and trails increase the value of nearby properties by 5 to 20 percent. The Crosland Company in Charlotte surveyed 800 new and existing area homebuyers and found they considered walking/biking paths an important amenity. In surveys, Mecklenburg County and Cornelius residents have selected greenways and trails as the most desired amenity park and recreation departments can provide.

## ARE GREENWAYS SAFE?

A 2003 study conducted by UNC–Charlotte explored property crime rates on the entire Mecklenburg County greenway system. The study compared crime rates found on properties next to greenways with general crime rates of the surrounding neighborhoods. Researchers found properties adjacent to greenways actually experienced *lower* crime rates in three of the four years surveyed. The study concluded greenways do not generate a greater risk of crime. Nationwide many studies have found similar results.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE USE GREENWAYS?

Recent counts taken on County greenways indicate their popularity. Between January 1 and March 31, 2015, Mallard Creek Greenway, near UNC Charlotte showed approximately 3,700 people use the trails each month. Greenway users tend to stay on the trail which takes them to their destination.

## WHAT ABOUT MAINTENANCE?

PARC Department staff works hard to provide a quality experience for park and greenway visitors. Mowing (by contractors), blowing, weeding, tree care, paving maintenance, providing mutt mitts and emptying trash cans are the necessary labor to insure public enjoyment.

## WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT?

Greenways can help improve the overall quality of life for Town residents. They provide active transportation to get to nearby schools, parks, shopping and other destinations. Greenways also provide a place to engage in physical fitness activities such as walking, running and biking. They conserve open space and protect the floodplain, help improve air and water quality, provide plants and animals with habitat, and offer residents a place to enjoy nature in all seasons. Using greenways promotes a strong sense of community and place.

