



Recommended Changes to Parks & Recreation Department Policies and Procedures

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners

From: Kathryn Spatz, Parks & Recreation Director

Date: August 27, 2019

Re: Recommended Change to Parks & Recreation Department Policies and Procedures

1. OVERVIEW

Town of Davidson Parks and Recreation staff recently had conversations with adjoining land owners surrounding town parks and the potential provision of a buffer for park amenities. After researching the issue, staff recommended to the Livability Board mirroring Mecklenburg County's parks and recreation master plan which calls for a 100 FT. buffer around the perimeter for regional and community parks but has language "100 FT. is desired but not mandated" for neighborhood parks.

The Livability Board discussed this issue at its August 20 meeting and voted unanimously (13-0) to recommend a buffer but remove any language related to a set distance and add the following language to the Parks and Recreation policies and procedures:

The Parks and Recreation Department shall work collaboratively with neighbors when developing park plans and shall respect adjoining property owner concerns. A buffer is desired but not mandated. The intention of this policy is not to explicitly prohibit park elements within the buffer but to look at each on a case-by-case basis.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

Goal: Davidson will have inclusive engagement with the community to encourage substantive, respectful, and open dialogue, increase participation, and foster a sense of belonging.

Goal: The Town of Davidson will Increase physical and mental health of Davidson citizens. Preserve open space. Provide ample opportunities for play and discovery (active and passive).

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

N/A

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the board of commissioners consider for approval the Livability Board's recommended change and this policy be adopted and added to the Parks and Recreation policies and procedures.

5. NEXT STEPS

If adopted, this statement would be added to the Parks and Recreation policies and procedures. Staff currently follows this practice but it will memorialize as policy.