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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Primary Partners and Collaborators	6
Introduction	8
Need for Active Communities	10
Fairview Background	12
Community Assessment	14
Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations	18
Summary Goals and Objectives	18
Priority Elements	18
Element 1 — Walking (and Other Assisted Mobility Devices)	20
Element 2 — Public Places	28
Element 3 — Public Parks and Green Space	38
Secondary Elements	42
Element 4 – Cycling (and Other Human-Powered Methods)	42
Element 5 – Public Transit	45
Element 6 - Healthy Food Access	49
Conclusion	55
Appendices	56
Works Cited	84

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Active communities are places that make physical activity and healthy eating a safe, accessible, and convenient part of everyday life.¹ Yet many communities, including the Fairview neighborhood in Hillsborough, NC, were not originally designed to support healthy, active living. The built environment, or the physical aspects of neighborhoods and communities, like homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, infrastructure, and transportation options significantly impact residents' ability to walk, roll, play, or eat healthfully.² Lack of adequate sidewalks, bike paths, and street lighting combined with limited access to parks, public places or supermarkets with healthy food options, make it challenging for residents to make healthy choices where they live.³

Since 2019, a passionate group of young residents in the Fairview Youth in Action program, a program sponsored by the Fairview Community Watch (FCW), the UNC Food, Fitness and Opportunity Research Collaborative (UNC FFORC), Habitat for Humanity of Orange County (Habitat), and with support from Mobycon, have worked to promote active living in their neighborhood. Over the past four summers, high-schooled-aged Fairview residents assessed neighborhood barriers to healthier lifestyles through a series of mapping and assessment exercises, interviewed community stakeholders, and gained input from the wider community through outreach and advocacy events.

The Fairview Youth in Action interns applied what they learned to create the Activate: Fairview Active Living Plan 2022-2027 ("Activate"). This youth-driven, community-engaged plan outlines goals, objectives, and recommendations to improve the neighborhood. The plan addresses the following six elements (three priority and three secondary) that work cumulatively to promote active communities.

PRIORITY ELEMENTS

1. Walking (and other assisted mobility devices)
2. Public Places
3. Parks and Green Spaces

SECONDARY ELEMENTS

4. Cycling (and other human-propelled devices)
5. Public Transit
6. Access to Healthy Food

The contents of this plan outline pressing issues, big aspirations, and a detailed course of action for positive change in Fairview. The intent of this plan is to serve as a guiding document for Fairview residents, community partners, and government officials invested in the neighborhood's future. Working together to achieve these goals is paramount to making Fairview a safer, healthier, and more active place to live for all.



PRIMARY PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



Fairview Community Watch

The Fairview Community Watch (FCW) is a neighborhood association composed of a committed group of resident leaders advocating for the Fairview neighborhood. FCW's mission is to make Fairview a safer, healthier, fairer, and more enjoyable place to live. The FCW leads neighborhood safety initiatives, supports a community garden, and hosts several community events each year. Since the 1990's, the FCW has led successful neighborhood advocacy campaigns, including an investigation into a nearby closed landfill, improvements at Fairview Park, and the establishment of the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. Since 2019, the FCW has sponsored the Fairview Youth in Action Program.



UNC-CH Food, Fitness and Opportunity Research Collaborative

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention's Food, Fitness and Opportunity Research Collaborative ("UNC FFORC") aims to improve health equity and outcomes for North Carolina communities. In 2018, FFORC launched Communities on the Move, an initiative that aims to increase physical activity in low-resource communities. Over the past five years, the UNC FFORC team has worked alongside Fairview community members (including the Fairview Youth in Action program) to examine and address policy, systems and environmental barriers in the built environment that prevent safe, active lifestyles.



Mobycon

Mobycon is a Dutch-American consulting firm with local offices in Durham, NC. Mobycon's mission is "to develop and implement mobility solutions that improve the lives and safety of all road-users." Since 2021, Mobycon has supported the Fairview Youth in Action program by leading workshops and providing technical assistance. Through these efforts, Mobycon worked with the interns to identify neighborhood challenges and explore possible solutions to improve walking and biking in the neighborhood.



Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC addresses the need for safe and affordable housing through new home construction and home preservation. Since 1984, Habitat has built over 300 affordable homes and repaired over 200 homes for low-income households in Orange County. Habitat is dedicated to strengthening the communities it serves by building relationships and supporting neighborhood-led initiatives. Since 2019, Habitat has supported the Fairview Youth in Action program.



INTRODUCTION

Fairview is a low-income neighborhood in Hillsborough, NC, predominantly composed of African-American and Latinx residents. The residential community has long experienced a number of pressing challenges. A 2002 assessment of the neighborhood conducted by UNC Chapel Hill's School of Public Health found that Fairview faced issues related to drugs, crime, lack of access to recreation, youth educational opportunities, transportation, health, and street safety.⁴ Fairview is also a community with a rich history of civic engagement and local activism. The Fairview Community Watch (FCW), a coalition of invested neighborhood residents and partners, has long advocated for change in the neighborhood.

In 2019, in response to the pressing challenges facing the neighborhood, the FCW launched the Fairview Youth in Action Program to provide summer educational and community service opportunities to high-school aged youth living in or connected to the Fairview community. The paid summer internship program is a partnership between the Fairview Community Watch, UNC FFORC, and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, with support from Mobycon. Over the past four summers, interns

in the program have supported neighborhood initiatives, met with government officials, held litter clean ups, volunteered in the community garden, and distributed newsletters.

Through these experiences, the interns observed the ways in which various issues like litter, loose dogs, potholes, and speeding vehicles all made walking in Fairview feel unsafe and unwelcoming. The interns voiced a strong desire to address these challenges. To better understand the issues, the summer 2019 cohort started mapping the road conditions around the neighborhood. In the process, they gathered information on several broken or vandalized street signs and pinpointed a few areas with high rates of reckless driving. At the end of the program, interns shared their findings to the Town Board of Hillsborough. A few months later, in response to the interns' efforts, the Town of Hillsborough installed new street signs around Fairview.

The initial success from this youth-led walking audit renewed interest across the neighborhood to continue the long effort to advocate for and make positive changes in Fairview. The following summers, the Fairview Youth in Acton interns continued their focus by making active living their top priority. Over the summers of 2020–2022, the interns conducted a series of mapping and assessment exercises to further understand Fairview’s strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for active living. During this time, interns met with local city planners, researchers, politicians, and community members to learn more about ways to make Fairview a safer place to live. During this process, the interns expanded their focus on walkability, to include other elements of active living, including biking, transit, public places, parks, and healthy food access.

In the summers of 2021 and 2022, the interns organized Walk Fairview Day, a neighborhood walk and advocacy event to update the community on their findings. During the event, the youth led community members and local policymakers on a walk around the community so that they could experience firsthand barriers to active living to build support to address them. Utilizing tactical urbanism approaches, the interns created temporary art demonstrations along the walking route to visualize “light, quick, and cheap”⁵ changes that could lead to long-term improvements in Fairview. Demonstrations featured at the events included:

Signs indicating walking distances from community landmarks, a pop-up bus shelter, make-shift bike racks, a colorful crosswalk, and art detailing future sites of desired sidewalks, walking trails, and recreation facilities. As a result of the Walk Fairview Day events, the interns successfully garnered wider community interest in making change. Since then, local policymakers and community partners have remained in close contact with the group of young residents to work towards implementing permanent changes like sidewalks, bike racks, and traffic calming measures in Fairview.

In 2022, the interns established the Activate: Fairview Active Living Plan to document their findings and set a course of action to make and sustain change. This report is the culmination of the intern’s multi-year exploration to understand the challenges facing their neighborhood. It is informed by their research, meetings with stakeholders, and community feedback gathered during Walk Fairview Day events, community meetings, and conversations. The plan outlines five-year goals to guide residents, partners, and government officials in creating a healthier future for Fairview. Included in this plan are short-, mid-, and long-term action steps to be taken to activate the change needed to achieve these goals and make these aspirations a reality.



Photo of intern audit of street signs completed in summer 2019



NEED FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Many communities in North Carolina, particularly low-income communities and communities of color, are not designed to support healthy, active living. The built environment, which includes the physical aspects of communities, like homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, infrastructure, and transportation options, has been primarily formed around the movement of motorized vehicles, not people.⁶ The resulting environmental conditions, like the lack of adequate sidewalks, bike paths, and street lighting and limited access to parks, public places,⁷ or supermarkets with healthy food options⁸, make it challenging for residents to be active or eat healthy where they live.

Barriers to active living present a serious and urgent threat to resident quality of life. Regular physical activity and a nutritious diet are foundational to promoting health and preventing chronic disease.⁹ Incorporating physical activity and healthy eating into everyday routines, such as walking to work, biking to school, playing in a park with friends, or eating fresh fruits and vegetables from a local store or community garden have proven to be effective ways to live a healthy lifestyle.¹⁰ However, the car-centered design of many North Carolinian communities, including Fairview, has limited

residents' ability to make everyday healthy choices, resulting in poor health outcomes. Recent data from Trust for America show high rates of obesity (36%), physical inactivity (21.3%), and food insecurity (12%) among North Carolinians. As a result, chronic diseases (such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease) associated with obesity are at record highs.¹¹

Low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately face poorer health outcomes caused by their physical environments. Historic and current policies and practices, such as underinvestment in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure¹², higher prevalence of traffic stops by police¹³, and lower prevalence of affordable and nutritious food⁸ have led to significant health disparities. For example, Black, Latinx, and low-income households face higher rates of obesity-related chronic disease than white or higher income households.¹¹ Additionally, Black and Latinx households experience significantly higher traffic fatalities per mile traveled than white households. In particular, Black Americans are more than two times likely to die while walking and four times more likely to die while cycling than white households.¹⁴ These disparities require immediate action.

Creating Active Communities

In response to these worsening health outcomes and disparities, communities across the United States must work to create “active communities.” Active communities are places that make it safe, accessible, and convenient to make everyday healthy choices like being physically active and eating healthy.¹⁵ Utilizing a policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) approach, a framework developed in the public health field, community members, policymakers, and multi-sector stakeholders can work together to improve the built environment and make healthy choices more safe, accessible, and convenient for residents of all ages and abilities.¹⁶ For example, adopting strategies like pedestrian-oriented street use policies, promoting resident walking groups, and improving street conditions have proven to increase street safety and promote physical activity among residents.¹ Collaboration, community planning, and design interventions, such as these, provide the tools for communities to promote health and prevent disease among all residents. There are many aspects and approaches that can work to establish active communities. Based on local priorities and needs identified by the interns, this report specifically focuses on the following six elements that can make Fairview an active community:

Six Elements of Active Communities



Walking (and other assisted mobility devices)



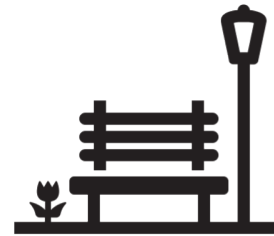
Cycling (and other human-propelled devices)



Public Transit



Public Places



Parks and Green Spaces



Access to Healthy Food



FAIRVIEW BACKGROUND

Fairview is a residential community in northern Hillsborough, North Carolina. The neighborhood consists of about 400 households and 900 individuals.¹⁷ The racial composition is predominantly African American and Latinx.

The geographical boundaries of the neighborhood include an AT&T right of way to the north, U.S. Route 70 to the south, N.C. 86 North to the east, and Thompson Court (or the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) to the west.¹⁷ However, as noted by community members with ties to the neighborhood, identification with Fairview extends beyond these defined boundaries.⁴

Fairview was first recognized as a neighborhood in 1952. Three decades later, in 1988, a large portion of the neighborhood was annexed into the Town of Hillsborough, gaining residents access to town services, including water and waste pickup.⁴ A small subset of properties in the northern tip of the neighborhood still remains outside of Town jurisdiction.

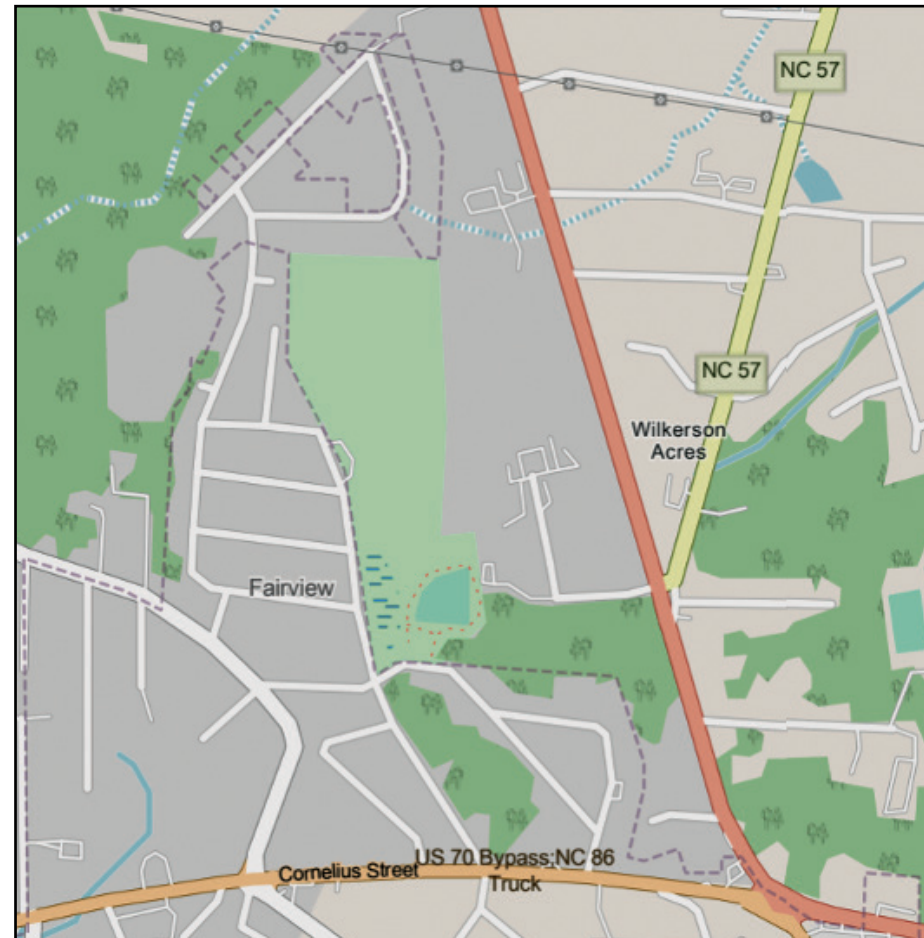
In 1977, Horace Johnson was elected to serve on Hillsborough's Town Board, becoming the second African American to do so. During his tenure, Mr. Johnson obtained grant money and with the help of the Mayor of Durham, installed water and sewage lines in the northern part of Fairview to replace existing polluted wells. With this grant money, they were also able to pave the roads in northern Fairview and repair and rehabilitate homes in the area.¹⁸

In 1989–1990, the county built a small playground for the children in Fairview. Horace Johnson became the first African American Mayor of Hillsborough in 1989. Through his leadership, Hillsborough worked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reduce truck traffic along Churton St.. In 1992, a tornado ravaged the Fairview community, leaving behind devastation and broken homes. Despite this, the community came together and vowed to “revitalize the area that had long been seen as a troubled neighborhood”¹⁹

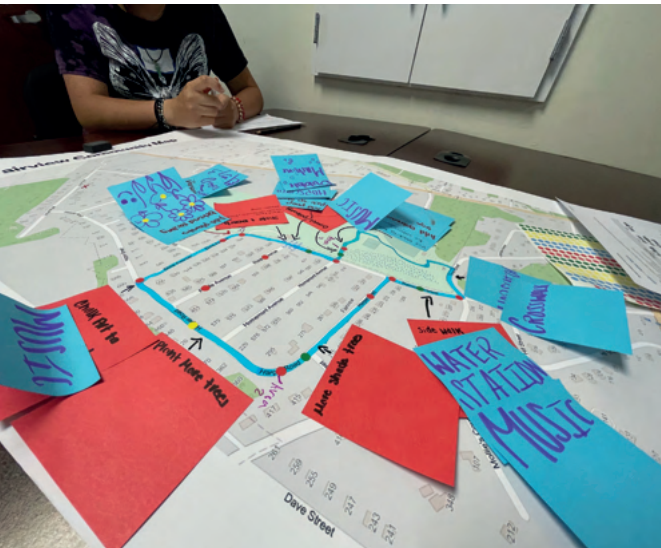
Fairview faces a number of quality-of-life challenges. A 2002 neighborhood assessment conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Public Health found that residents expressed concerns about drugs, crime, lack of access to recreation, opportunities for youth, transportation, neglected properties, and loose dogs.⁴ Many of these concerns have persisted over the two decades since the study was conducted. A review of local newspapers show that the community has faced a continued presence of drugs and crime over the years.^{20 21 22}

Fairview is also home to a strong network of resident leaders, advocates, and community partners who have long worked together to address the area's challenges. Since the early 1990s, the Fairview Community Watch has successfully advocated for several improvements to the neighborhood. In 2002, a community policing center was opened in the community to address safety concerns and provide community services. In 2011, Fairview Park was opened to the public, after a nearly 25-year effort by neighbors to have nearby outdoor recreation opportunities.²³ Since 2009, the neighborhood has supported a robust community garden, providing residents with healthy food and volunteer opportunities.²⁴ Most recently, the FCW successfully advocated for the repurposing of the former police substation to be a full-time community center, with plans to provide programming, social services, and a community kitchen.²⁵

Map of Fairview Neighborhood



Source: ESRI Arc GIS Online 2022



Community Assessment

The Fairview Youth in Action interns utilized community assessment tools to help identify and better understand Fairview’s strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for active living. The outcomes of these assessments were used to guide the intern’s process of identifying the necessary changes and improvements needed in their neighborhood.

COMMUNITY MAPPING

The interns participated in a series of “mapping my community” activities, which highlighted the most important elements in their community. They

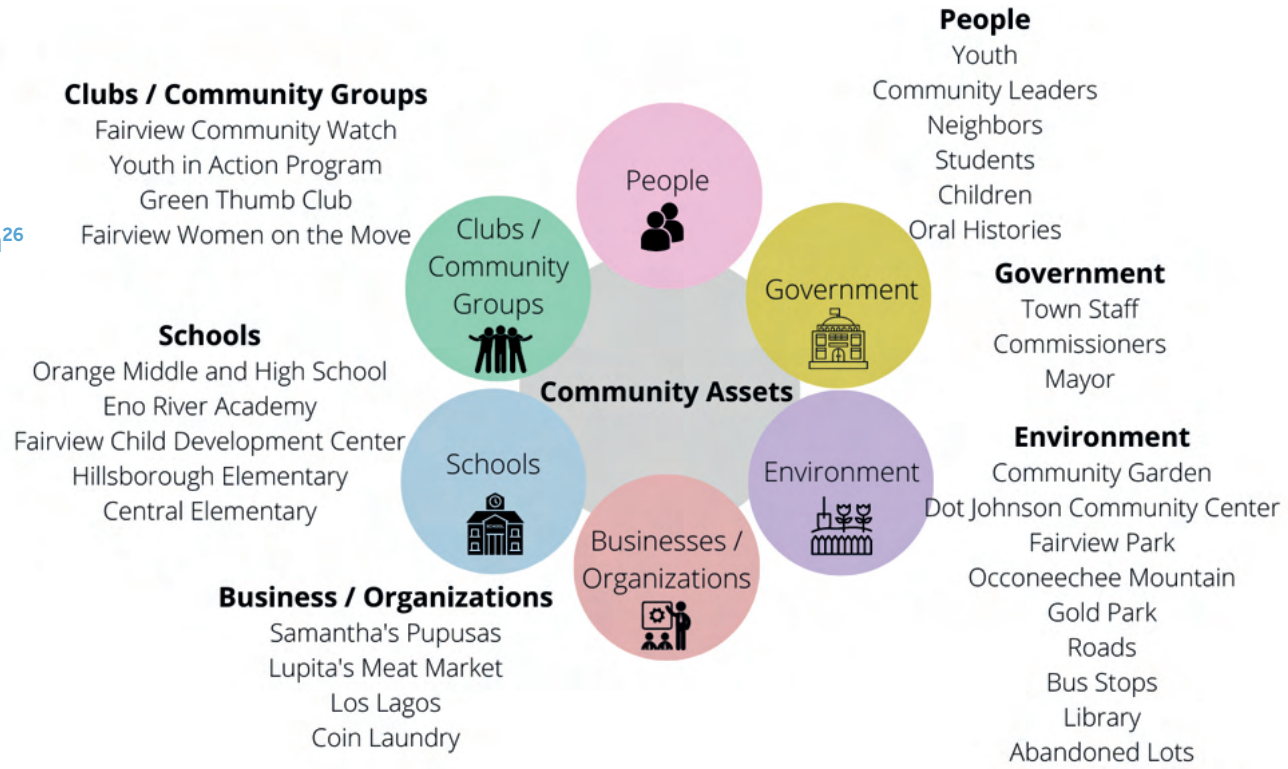
were asked to draw a map of their community. It is important to note that the term community was not defined. Youth were given the opportunity to define community in their own terms. Most of them identified their community as a place where people are connected to each other in one way or another. The assets identified in their maps are part of a set of different resources that are needed to be able to have a “community.” These different categories of assets play an instrumental part in the community’s opportunity to thrive and make improvements where needed. Some common themes that emerged are listed in Table 1 below.



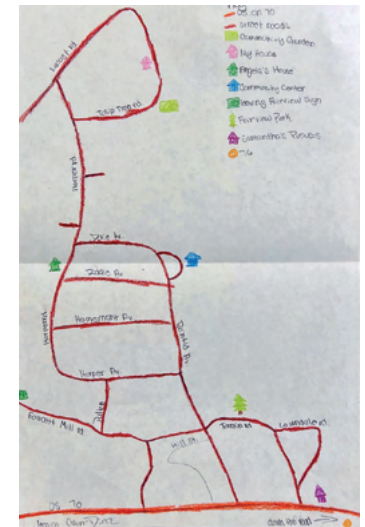
Strengths and Opportunities	Weaknesses and Limitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Amount of open space available ➔ Potential for growth ➔ People invested in the community ➔ Youth involvement ➔ History of collaboration ➔ Strong organizing groups ➔ Community leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Lack of sidewalks ➔ Drugs in the neighborhood ➔ Other people’s perception of the community ➔ Littering / trash ➔ Loose dogs ➔ Motorcycle races

Table 1: Community assets common themes

Community Asset Diagram²⁶



Sample intern community maps created summer 2021 & 2022





ACTIVE LIVING WORKSHOPS

Interns completed a series of active living workshops to learn and directly apply relevant topics to the challenges they were facing. Over the past two summers, interns completed workshops led by the UNC's Highway Safety Research Center, Mobycon, Walk [Your City], the Town of Hillsborough, and additional stakeholders. The walkability workshop was a continuation to ask the interns what makes their community a community. Some of the interns' responses were, their community is made when they feel safe, and have a sense of belonging with their neighbors, and when there are recreational parks and nature that can help merge communities together along with activities that are presented to the community. As a follow up to these responses, the interns were asked what needs to happen to make the neighborhood safer. Through a workshop with UNC's Highway Safety Research Center, the interns started noticing that their community wasn't walkable for all ages due to elements such as cracked roads, potholes, no crosswalks or sidewalks, and speeding that occurs along Harper Rd.

In response, the interns completed workshops with Mobycon. Through these workshops, interns learned about ways that streets can be modified to promote walkability. The interns discussed approaches such as implementing colorful crosswalks, using planters for beautification and traffic calming, and installing wayfinding signs. The interns then used what they learned to create a map where improvements could be made as well as designs for temporary demonstrations to showcase at Walk Fairview Day events.

COMMUNITY AUDITS

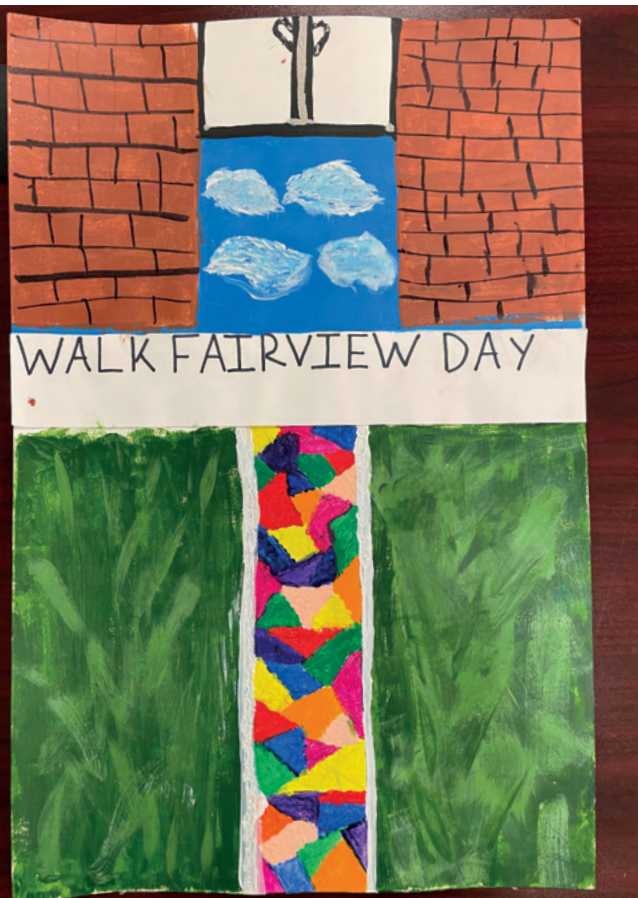
The interns utilized a series of community audits that targeted specific elements of active communities, including walking, public transit, and public places. Through these various assessments, the interns gained a deeper and on-the-ground understanding of the needs around the neighborhood. The interns found how Fairview residents are limited by a lack of sidewalks along busy roads, crosswalks and traffic signs, shelters and benches at bus stops and clear pathways connecting community points of interest. The outcomes of the audits are further explored in the following sections.

TACTICAL URBANISM DEMONSTRATIONS

At the end of summer programs in 2021 and 2022, the interns organized Walk Fairview Day, a neighborhood walk to highlight the challenges present and gather community feedback on proposed changes. Utilizing tactical urbanism methods, the youth created a series of low-cost, temporary demonstrations around the neighborhood. These demonstrations included:

- Improving an underused shortcut path to Fairview Park. The interns created an entrance to the path by spray painting bowling balls and a black mat that were found discarded nearby. The group also improved the area by cutting back the branches and laying pine straw along the path.
- Creating a pop-up vegetable stand. The interns converted a rolling wooden stand that was going to be thrown away into a vegetable stand that highlighted different produce of the Fairview Community Garden.
- Making a colorful crosswalk. The interns decorated a black exercise mat to highlight the need for safe crossings by the park.
- Decorated potholes around the neighborhood. The interns also spray painted two plastic cones to highlight potholes present in the community





Painting depicting sidewalk art. Created by Izel De Jesus Sanchez, Summer 2022 Fairview Intern.

Goals, Objectives, And Recommendations

Based on the assessments and feedback the interns gathered over the past several summers, the interns developed a set of goals and accompanying objectives and recommendations to improve active living in Fairview. The following sections, organized by the six elements that promote active communities, are structured as followed:

- Brief background on the specific element and how it contributes to active communities.
- Assessment of the element, including review of existing plans, audits, and additional assessments the interns completed to learn more about the subject matter.
- Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Summary Goals and Objectives

Priority Elements

ELEMENT 1 – WALK (AND OTHER ASSISTED MOBILITY DEVICES)

Goal: Enhance roads to make it walkable for everyone of all ages along with providing a safe space for everyone to be in.

- **Objective 1.1:** Implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeding in the neighborhood
- **Objective 1.2:** Improve pedestrian experience around the neighborhood

ELEMENT 2 – PUBLIC PLACES

Goal 5: Make improvements to the Dorothy Johnson Community Center so that the space is useful, engaging, accessible, and gives residents something to do.

- **Objectives 5.1:** Decorate the lobby and meeting space beautifully and efficiently to make every resident and visitor feel welcomed.
- **Objective 5.2:** Convert three existing offices into functional and accessible classrooms.
- **Objective 5.3:** Beautify the exterior of the building to make the space more attractive and usable.

ELEMENT 3 — PARKS & GREEN SPACES

Goal 4: Create a park where Fairview residents feel welcomed, can be active, and build community.

- **Objective 4.1:** Expand recreational opportunities for Fairview residents
- **Objective 4.2:** Maintain a safe and accessible environment.

Secondary Elements

ELEMENT 4 — CYCLING (AND OTHER HUMAN-PROPELLED DEVICES)

Goal: Enhance community connectivity by adding bikeways and other bike amenities in Fairview to be able to bike safely and connect to key destinations.

- **Objectives 2.1:** Install a bike lane on Faucette Mill Rd. that will connect to the park and other key destinations.
- **Objective 2.2:** Install and/or improve bike racks at key destinations to connect residents.
- **Objective 2.3:** Improve connectivity between Fairview and other neighborhoods in Hillsborough.

ELEMENT 5 — PUBLIC TRANSIT

Goal 3: Improve and expand transit opportunities for Fairview residents.

- **Objective 3.1:** Improve accessibility and safety at three bus stops located in Fairview
- **Objective 3.2:** Increase awareness of transit services within Fairview
- **Objective 3.2:** Expand frequency of service

ELEMENT 6 — HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Goal 6: Provide healthy food access opportunities and initiatives to Fairview residents

- **Objective 6.1:** Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables
- **Objective 6.2:** Maintain or improve food distribution options within the community.
- **Objective 6.3:** Expand Fairview Community Garden to increase the number of people served.





PRIORITY ELEMENTS

Element 1 — Walking (And Other Assisted Mobility Devices)

BACKGROUND

Walking (or using other assisted mobility devices such as a wheelchair) is the most basic form of transportation. It is (theoretically) accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, race, or economic status. It's well-known that walking and other means of physical activity provide a myriad of benefits including improved physical and mental health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adults get 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week – a goal that can be achieved through 30 minutes of brisk walking 5 days a week.²⁷ In addition to the health benefits, choosing to walk for transportation instead of driving a vehicle prevents the release of climate change-inducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, resulting in improved air quality at the global and local scales. Finally, walking in one's own neighborhood allows residents to foster a connection to their neighbors and their local environment, something that is not always possible when traveling alone in a vehicle.

Despite the benefits of walking, there are many places where this form of transportation is simply not practical or safe. A lack of safe facilities is also a major barrier in many American communities. Missing or narrow sidewalks, a lack of crosswalks, and high vehicle speeds and volumes not only create an environment that is unpleasant to walk in but also compromise safety, increasing the risk of injury or death for those who try to navigate their community on foot (or by similar means). A built environment that presents barriers to walking thus prevents residents from achieving the health, environmental, and economic benefits of walking, as well as the sense of connection it can provide.

The Fairview neighborhood in Hillsborough, NC is no exception. While located less than 1 mile from downtown Hillsborough destinations, the lack of safe crossing facilities of Highway 70 makes accessing downtown unsafe and unrealistic by any mode other than automobiles. Similarly, a lack of safe facilities along and crossing Highway 86 makes reaching Orange Middle School and Orange High School by foot a challenge.

Given this project focuses on short-term and low-cost implementations, interns chose to focus on improvements within the neighborhood, rather than connections to other parts of Hillsborough, as that would fall outside the scope of what tactical urbanism can achieve. Long-term and more permanent solutions have been discussed however as recommendations for inclusion in broader Town of Hillsborough plans.

WALKING ASSESSMENT

In Summer 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action interns conducted several activities to assess the walking environment in Fairview.

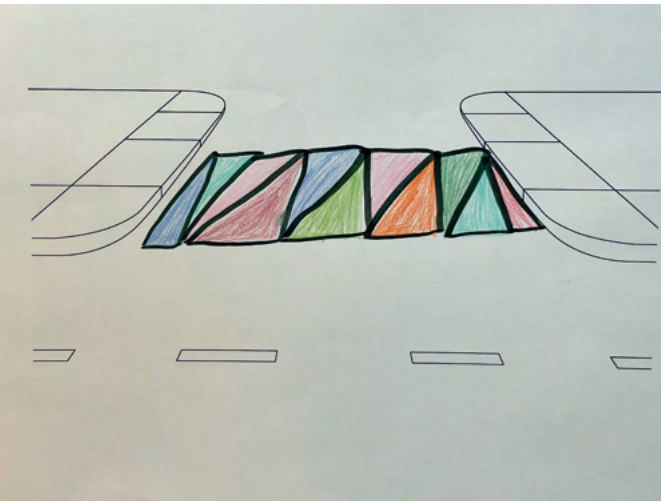
Walk Audits

The activities kicked off in June when the interns completed walk audits of the Fairview neighborhood. To facilitate the audit, they brought along Walk Audit Worksheets (see Appendix A for reference) prompting them to consider a number of elements including the presence of sidewalks and clear spaces to walk, the crossability of streets, driver behavior, the presence of vegetation, shade, noise, and lighting, among others.

While there were a range of responses and feelings about the walking environment, some key findings emerged. A majority of interns found there was not enough room to walk in the neighborhood and found that a lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, and seating areas made for an environment that is not comfortable for a variety of users. Another common sentiment was that although there were plenty of trees in the area that made for a pleasant walk, there was little shade in the walking environment, which negatively impacted the interns' experience. The full table of responses are available in Appendix B.



Photos of Walk Audits conducted during summer 2022



Active Transportation Network Planning Workshop

Following the completion of the walk audits, the consulting firm Mobycon was welcomed to run a workshop for the interns, helping them learn more about network planning and tactical urbanism. The interns were introduced to best practices in good active transportation route design. The five principles are as follows:

Coherence: Ensuring complete networks that connect origins and destinations with facilities that are recognizable and consistent in design.

Directness: Ensuring active users can take the shortest path between origin and destination and that the time and distance traveled is competitive with other modes of transportation.

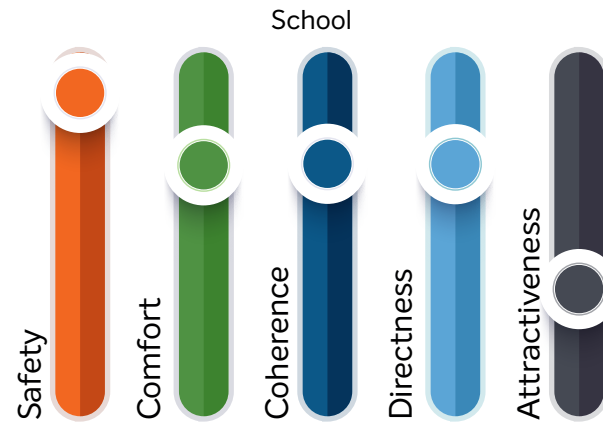
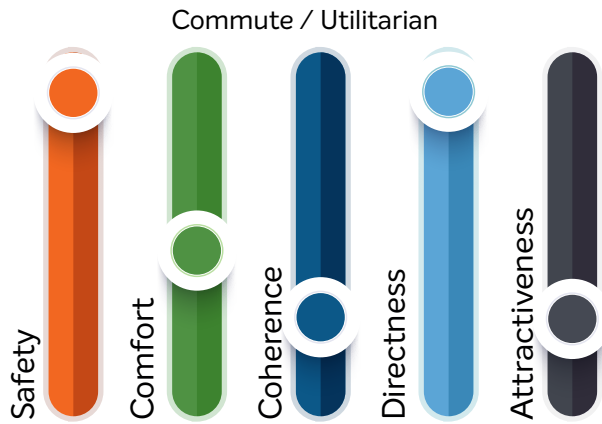
Attractiveness: Creating a pleasant environment to use active modes where there is minimal stress and a sense of security. Features that contribute to attractiveness include small scale and variation in surroundings, and the presence of other people.

Safety: Minimizing conflicts between vehicles and active users and reducing the risk and severity of conflicts where they may occur. This can include separation between road users, speed reductions, and intersection and crossing treatments that allow for communication between road users.

Comfort: Minimizing steep slopes, providing shelter from the elements, and avoiding uncomfortable maneuvering like having to walk on the side of the road or uneven grades can make walking easier.

Using these principles, the interns reviewed the route they had developed earlier in the summer for Walk Fairview Day and identified the primary purpose of the route; whether it will be mostly used by commuters, school children, or for recreation. The interns decided the route would be most used for commuting and school trips.

Variations in the importance of each principle typically occur among road users, based on the type of trip they are making. Here are two graphics illustrating those variations for commuter/utilitarian-motivated trips as compared to students (and parents) making school trips.



With the purpose established, the interns conducted a challenge mapping exercise to identify locations along the route that presented challenges to walking in the neighborhood. Overall challenges identified for the neighborhood and route included a lack of sidewalks and crosswalks. Through the mapping exercise, specific locations where missing crosswalks were a particular issue were identified. Other challenges identified included speeding vehicles, a lack of wayfinding and signage alerting drivers to drive carefully, and a bland walking environment.

Following the challenge mapping, the interns were introduced to the concept of tactical urbanism and learned ways to address challenges with low-cost, temporary, and strategic interventions. Revisiting the challenge areas identified previously, they determined how to improve the walking environment with tactical urbanism for Walk Fairview Day and to share with the Town of Hillsborough and community for longer-term improvements. Paint and chalk were recommended as a short-term tactical urbanism solution to address multiple challenges from creating marked crosswalks to improving signage for building and short cut entrances. This would also help to brighten up the route and create a more vibrant and pleasant environment. Longer-term solutions such as crosswalks, sidewalks, permanent signage, and vegetation along the street were also recommended.



Walk Fairview Day

Walk Fairview Day 2022 was held on August 6, 2022. Leading up to the event the interns brightened up the community by painting sidewalks, crosswalks, and murals. They also placed colorful signs for wayfinding and indicating potential locations for future sidewalks, bus shelters, and cycling infrastructure.

To engage community members attending the event, a “dotmocracy” or “dot-voting” activity was set up where attendees could vote on options to improve walking and biking in Fairview. By placing stickers in the blank space underneath an improvement header, community members demonstrated their support for the interns’ ideas and helped direct their efforts. The options with the greatest support to improve the walking environment included preventing off-leash dogs (19), installing a sidewalk on Rainey Ave. (12), and planting more trees for shade (9). Other improvements identified included a crosswalk on Rainey Ave. at Torain St. (8) and a bike lane on Faucette Mill Rd. (6).



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the activities completed over Summer 2022, the interns developed a goal and accompanying objectives to improve the walking environment in Fairview.

Element: Walking

Goal 1: Enhance roads to make it walkable for everyone of all ages along with providing a safe space for everyone to be in.

Host neighborhood clean ups twice a year to decrease litter.

1. Implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeding in the neighborhood

2. Improve pedestrian experience around the neighborhood

Objective 1.1: Implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeding in the neighborhood

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install a multi-way stop (by placing stop signs with painted white stop bars) on Rainey Ave. and Torain St. 2. Fix potholes on corners of Dalton and Harper and on Harper Rd. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install chicanes along Harper Rd, Locust Rd, Rainey Ave. 2. Increase visibility around Tulip Tree curve by community garden. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add a colorful crosswalk at Rainey Ave. and Torain St. intersection. 2. Install curb extensions on Rainey Ave from Cornelius St (Rt 70), Harper Rd-Locust Rd intersection. 3. Install a mini traffic circle at the Locust Rd-Tulip Tree Dr intersection.

Recommendations

Further to each objective, Interns identified short-, mid-, and long-term measures that would help Fairview streets reach their goal of a walkable neighborhood for all ages and abilities.

Objective 1.2: Improve pedestrian experience around the neighborhood

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an awareness campaign to decrease loose dogs. 2. Host neighborhood clean ups twice a year to decrease litter. 3. Clean up park shortcut and path on Rainey. 4. Add temporary signage and planters to create a neighborhood gateway 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve accessibility of shortcut to Fairview Park on Rainey 2. Add a temporary pedestrian walkway on Rainey (such as gravel) 3. Install colorful directional wayfinding at various locations 4. Add sidewalk art at community center and park 5. Plant shade trees along Harper, Rainey, Tulip Tree, Locust, Riddle, and Dixie 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install a sidewalk on Rainey connecting Community Center to Park 2. Install permanent neighborhood gateway with landscaping of Rainey and Torain. 3. Work with affordable housing providers to address vacant homes 4. Improve walking access to nearby destinations, such as nearby shopping center and laundromat 5. Install pedestrian lighting along Harper Rd, Tulip Tree Dr, Locust Rd, Rainey Ave. 6. Add a walking trail/path that connects Fairview Park, Community Center and Community Garden (see parks)

Other Considerations:

While clear and achievable, these recommendations should not be led by the intern group alone. Successful implementation will benefit from greater support from the community, and engaging stakeholders will be a key aspect of achieving these recommendations. The interns have identified primary and secondary stakeholders to be:

- Primary Stakeholders: Town of Hillsborough
- Secondary Stakeholders: Orange County + Community Partners

Examples

Chicanes



Photo: Tallahassee, FL. Pedbikeimages.org

Mini Traffic Circles



Photo: Tacoma, WA. Pedbikeimages.org

Curb Extension



Photo: Portland, OR. Pedbikeimages.org
Courtesy: Seth LaJeunesse, UNC Highway Safety
Research Center



*Dot Johson Community Center.
Painting by Kevin Mandujano, Summer 2022
Fairview Intern.*

Element 2 — Public Places

BACKGROUND

Public places, such as libraries, museums, community centers, or government buildings are places that are open and accessible to the general public. Public places produce numerous health and quality of life benefits for communities, including increased social connection and civic engagement, improved economic development and safety, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. According to the Project for Public Places, to effectively produce community benefits, public places should be accessible, comfortable, engaging, and social.²⁸

In Fairview, the Dorothy Johnson Community Center serves as the neighborhood’s primary public place. The 2,520 square foot building, built in 2002, is owned by the Town of Hillsborough. Until recently, the building was utilized primarily as a police substation. In 2021, after a successful advocacy effort led by the Fairview Community Watch (FCW), the Town of Hillsborough approved the repurposing of the building as a community center operated by

the FCW. The community center, named after a long-term leader and advocate for the neighborhood, is still in early stages of development, with the FCW’s initial goals including revisioning the space from a former police station to a vibrant public place for the Fairview Community.²⁵

PUBLIC PLACE ASSESSMENT

During summer 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action interns aimed to support the FCW’s goals by understanding alignment with existing plans surrounding the building, assessing the conditions of the space, and gathering community input for future desires for the building.

Review of Existing Plans

Existing plans from primary stakeholders (including Orange County, Town of Hillsborough, and the Fairview Community Watch) involved with the space include Orange County’s Fairview Park Master Plan, Town of Hillsborough’s Vision 2030 Plan and the Fairview Community Watch’s Vitalize: *Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center Strategic Plan*.

*Orange County's Fairview Park Master Plan 2010*²⁹

The 2010 plan developed jointly by Orange County and Town of Hillsborough included plans for development of a separate facility for a community center adjacent to Dixie Avenue.

*Town of Hillsborough Vision 2030*³⁰

Vision 2030 is the Town's comprehensive planning and policy document. The plan's overall vision is "a prosperous town, filled with vitality, fostering a strong sense of community, which celebrates and preserves its unique heritage and small-town character."³⁰ Increasing access and use of the Dorothy Johnson Community Center aligns with this vision. Specifically, redesigning the space support key goals and objectives outlined in the document, including:

- 2.A: Encourage the development of programs and materials that feature the history of minority populations in Hillsborough.
- 2.B: Support the celebration of diverse neighborhoods within Hillsborough as appropriate for each neighborhood.

*Vitalize: Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center Strategic Plan 2022-2027*²⁵

The Vitalize Strategic Plan, prepared by UNC-Chapel Hill's Community Practice Lab and in partnership with the Fairview Community Watch and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, outlines key goals and recommendations for the initial growth of the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center over the next five years (2022-2027). The report outlines a four-phased implementation plan across five core areas: 1) Funding, 2) Staffing, 3) Operations, 4) Building Renovations, and 5) Community Outreach. The Fairview interns supported the operationalizing of this plan by focusing recommendations on the building renovations section of this plan.





PUBLIC PLACE AUDIT

During summer 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action interns conducted a public place audit of the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. The interns utilized AARP's Public Space Audit³¹ along with supplemental worksheets developed by UNC FFORC. Together the assessments identified strengths, challenges, and possible improvements for the community center. Findings (outlined in Appendix D) from the audits indicate the following:

- *Users:* The interns expect that the space will support a diverse group of residents, including residents of all age groups (from young children to older adults) and differing accessibility needs (such as residents with low-vision or residents using a wheelchair.).
 - *Use of Space:* The space is and will typically be used by residents for meetings, group activities, educational opportunities, and social gatherings.
 - *Quality of Space:* The majority of the space's features were rated as good or fair. Overall cleanliness was rated lowest.
- *Atmosphere:* The space generally made participants feel comfortable, relaxed, safe, and social. Majority of participants did not see the space as inclusive to them or provide areas to play.
 - *Connection to Community:* The building is not strongly connected to the rest of the community for walking and biking. Variables such as lack of accessible sidewalks and designated bike lanes connecting the space as well as speeding traffic contributed to these feelings.
 - *Challenges:* Auditors noted a variety of challenges for the space, including an unwelcoming and dull atmosphere, lack of community awareness, and some safety concerns.
 - *Existing Strengths:* Auditors identified primary strengths of the space, including the quality of the building, interior amenities (such as kitchen, bathroom facilities, meeting space, and internet access), exterior amenities (playground, bus stop, shade, sidewalks, and sign.)

- *Existing Weaknesses:* Auditors identified some limitations to the building, including general building upkeep (cleanliness, broken light, visible cords), unused or underutilized space, harsh lighting, lack of outdoor seating, and walking connection to Fairview Park and other community areas.
- *Possible Improvements:* Auditors provided several initial ideas for improvements to the building, including making the building more colorful, adding public art, more types of seating, landscaping, technology, information, and a sense of culture.
- *Future Opportunities:* Auditors listed several hopes they have for the space in the future, including: community events, exercise classes, social clubs, a place to receive aid or support, a place to hang out and gather, a place for young people.

Photos of the community center taken during the audit process are outlined in Appendix E for further observation.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The interns utilized findings from their assessment of the building to establish the following goals, objectives, and recommendations for the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. With feasibility and prioritization in mind, the interns specifically narrowed their focus on three primary areas of the community center: 1) lobby and meeting space, 2) the three classrooms, and 3) the outside area of the building.

Element: Public Places

Goal 2: Make improvements to the Dorothy Johnson Community Center so that the space is useful, engaging, and accessible.

Objectives

1. Decorate the lobby and meeting space beautifully and efficiently to make every resident and visitor feel welcomed.
2. Convert three existing offices into functional and accessible classrooms.
3. Beautify the exterior of the building to make the space more attractive and usable.



Area: Meeting Space and Lobby

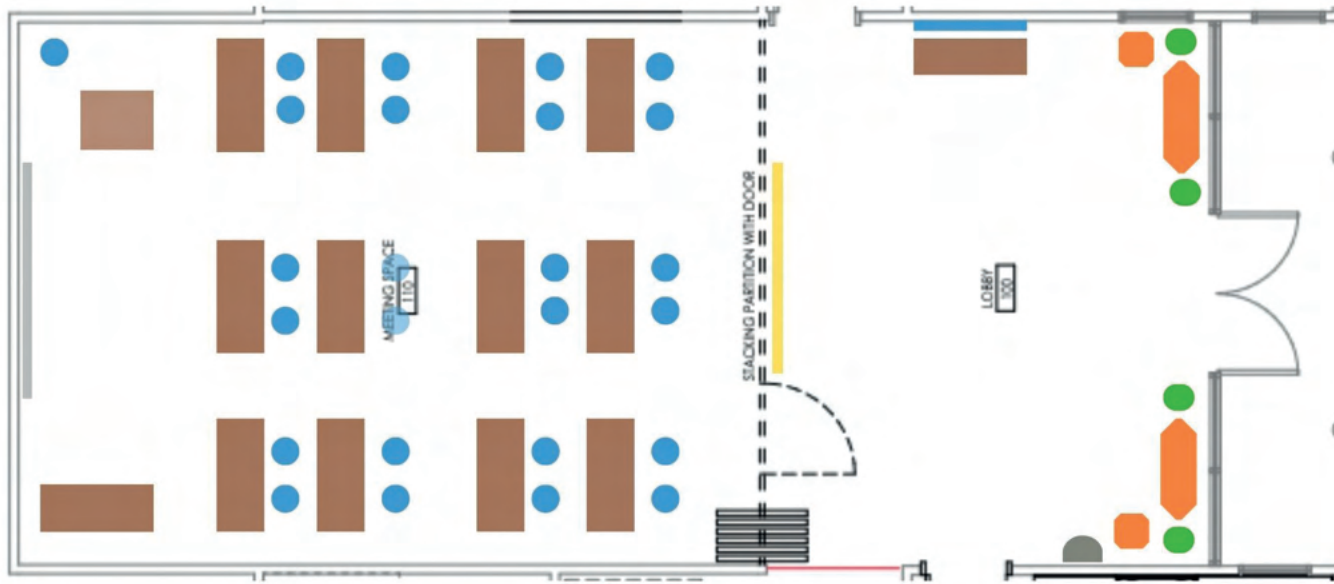
Objective 2.1: Decorate the lobby and meeting space beautifully and efficiently to make every resident and visitor feel welcomed.

Purpose: Encourage, promote, and invite people from different backgrounds of the Fairview community to participate in healthy activities, events, and promote the well-being of our community.

	Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
Meeting Space	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the space. 2. Fix broken light in meeting space. 3. Reorganize closet storage space in meeting room. 4. Remove old tv set 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paint walls. 2. Upgrade technology (including laptop, HDML, speakers, and camera.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand space to accommodate more people.
Lobby	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Clean the space. 6. Create informational bulletin board with information on events and activities 7. Paint and install canvas art around the space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Add comfortable seating in lobby area. 4. Add artificial plants in lobby area. 5. Add a floor lamp in lobby area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Paint walls. 3. Install mural above meeting space entrance. 4. Install memorial plaque of Ms. Dorothy Johnson at entrance. 5. Install new lighting. 6. Move alarm system and devices.

Diagram of Proposed Changes to Meeting Space and Lobby

Area: Meeting Space & Lobby



Room #	Proposed Use	Dimensions (ft)
100	Lobby	20 x 17 ft
110	Meeting Space	20.5 x 27.5 ft

Legend

- Mural
- Table
- Artificial Plant
- Podium
- Bulletin Board
- Chair
- Water Fountain
- Chair or Sofa

Area: Classrooms

Objective 2.2: Convert three existing offices into functional and accessible classrooms.

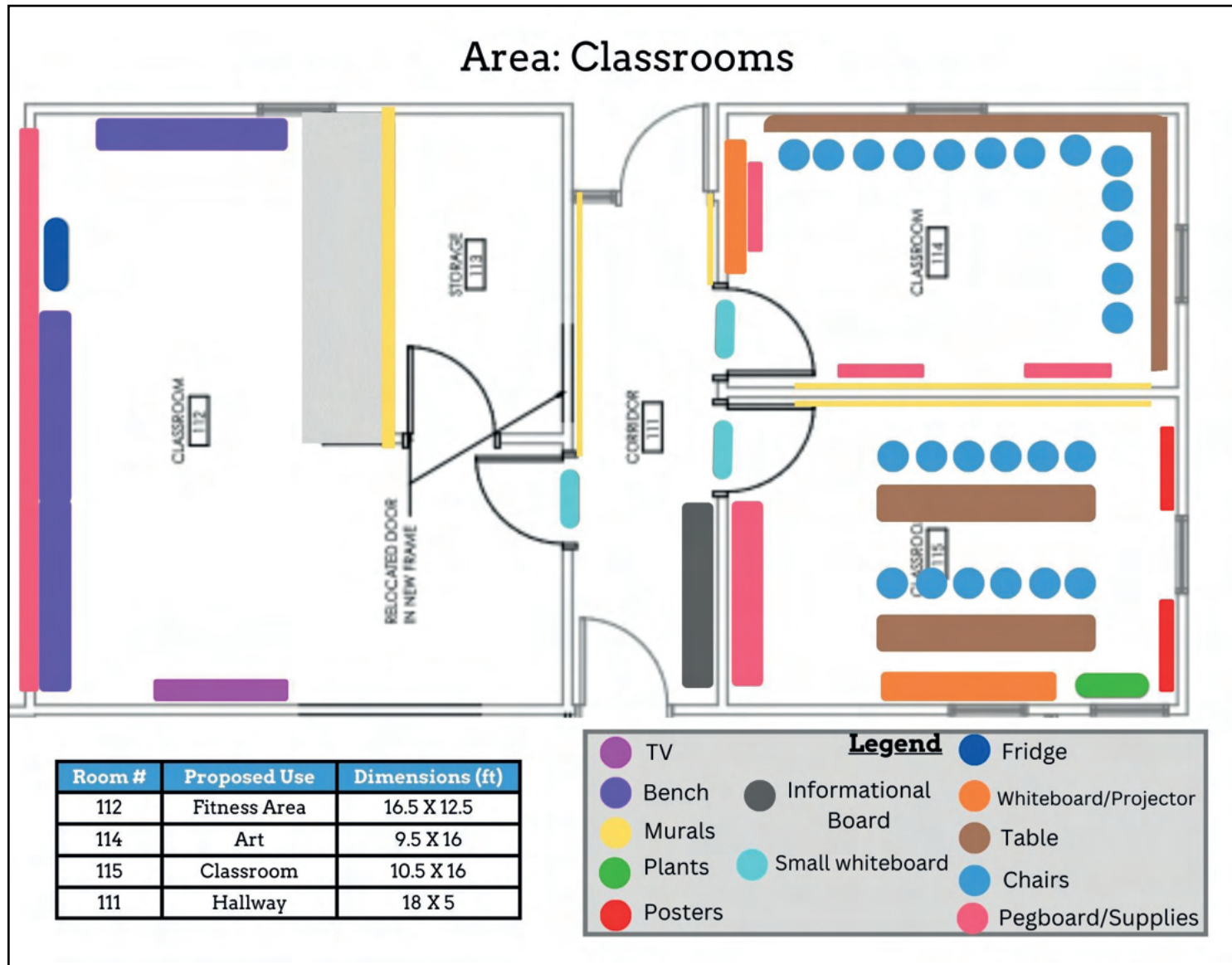
Purpose: Make a community center that is useful and engaging, it is accessible, cheap, and gives you something to do.

	Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
All Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clean the carpets Create artwork for each of the doors Add a bulletin board in hallway for schedules and upcoming events Hang posters on walls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paint (3) rooms and hallway Upgrade (3) doors to include a window for safety purposes. Remove doorway entry stumps to increase accessibility. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paint murals in each room and hallway Remove carpet and install non-slip vinyl flooring. Install new lights in each classroom. Update signage to reflect new uses
Exercise Area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase fitness materials (yoga mat, blocks, resistance bands, light weights) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Add benches along walls Add large, padded workout mat Add a fridge 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine needs for renovation of hallway bathroom, into storage space Determine needs for additional workout equipment
Art Space	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase two tables and twelve chairs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase art supplies Install a pegboard Hang a small white board 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Add a new flat screen TV with mobile stand
Classroom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase two tables and twelve chairs Add a new flat screen TV with mobile stand 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase books and educational materials for resource library Install a pegboard Hang a large white board 	

Other Considerations:

- Trim trees around building to allow for more sunlight
- Make classroom windows larger

Diagram of Proposed Changes to Classrooms



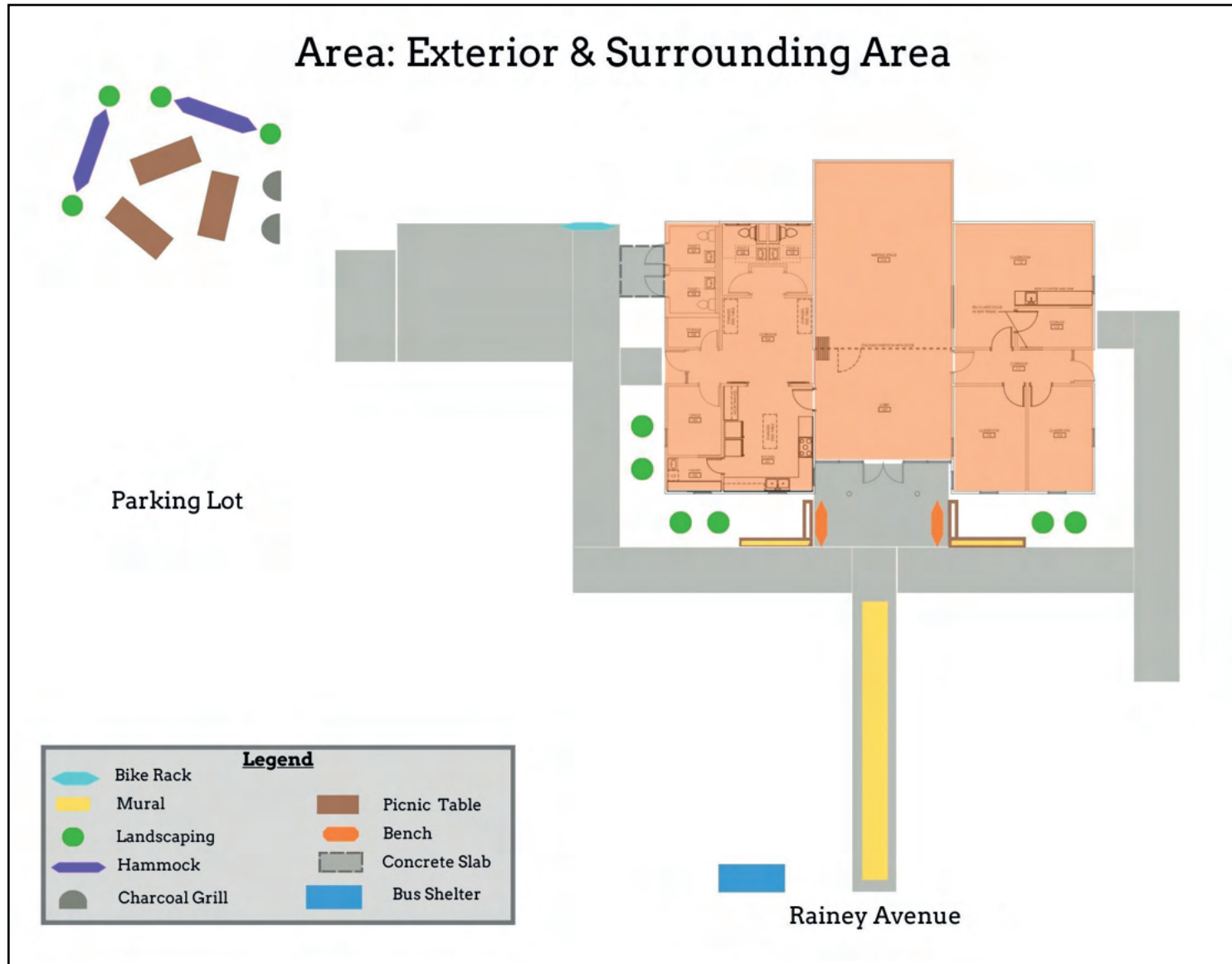
Area: Exterior and Surrounding Area

Objective 2.3: Beautify the exterior of the building to make the space more attractive and usable.

Purpose: Beautify the exterior of the center to give it a sense of identity.

		Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term	
Building Exterior	1.	Clean and pressure wash building exterior	1.	Add landscaping in front and side of center	1. Paint exterior of building 2. Install a mural on the outside brick walls in front of building 3. Extend wifi access to the exterior of building 4. Add community bulletin board on front of building 5. Replace and install exterior light by sidewal
	2.	Remove large trash items on back of building	2.	Add two benches in front of the center	
	3.	Repaint parking lot2. Install a rain garden along park-side of parking lot to effectively manage storm water	3.	Bridge concrete area between bathrooms and sidewalk to be accessible by people with mobility device	
	4.	Install interactive art (such as chalkboard) outside entrance	4.	Modify toilet lever in bathrooms to be on side with open space to increase access for wheelchair users	
	5.	Provide interactive play features (ex. Connect Four)			
	6.	Install a trash can			
Picnic Area	1.	Add 3 hammocks to use in trees by picnic area	1.	Install 3 picnic tables	1. Remove the existing grill and replace with two new grills 2. Add 1-2 lights along parking lot 3. Install a gazebo with landscaping
	2.	Install a rain garden	2.	Plant pollinators and fruit trees along parking lot by Rainey Ave.	

Diagram of Proposed Changes to Exterior and Surrounding Area





fairview Park (Photo taken Augustus 2021)

Element 3 — Public Parks and Green Space

BACKGROUND

Public parks and green spaces provide important spaces for people of all ages to be active, socialize, play, and enjoy the outdoors. AARP finds that living nearby public parks and open spaces leads to improved physical health, provides mental health benefits, creates cleaner air and water, improves property values, and enhances community connections.³¹

Fairview Park is a community park adjoining the Fairview neighborhood. The park opened in 2011 and is operated by Orange County. The park offers several amenities including: a baseball field, a horseshoe pit, three tennis courts, two basketball courts, playgrounds, a quarter-mile walking trail, and a picnic shelter.

Fairview residents long advocated for a park in their community. A landfill operated on the current park site from the 1940's to 1975. Original plans for a park on the land date back to the early 1980's. Through delays in government planning processes as well as a series of destructive storms in the 1990's, the site remained unused for over nearly two decades.³²

In 1999, 20 years later James Stewart, a Fairview resident, responded to community aspirations and built a baseball field on the dump site, coining it the "Field of Dreams."³³ For over two months, Mr.

Stewart "cleared the land, cut down the weeds, hauled in fill dirt, and put up fences."³² After a few successful seasons played on the diamond, the county temporarily closed the field for liability and health reasons. After concerns were rectified, the county took over maintenance of the field and baseball continued.³⁴

In 2001, Orange County residents voted affirmatively on a Parks and Open Space bond that provided funding for Fairview Park. Concept plans for the space included a three-phased approach. Initial phases for the park were completed in 2011. In 2015, Orange County officially named the newly constructed baseball field in honor of James "Junebug" Stewart.

Additional plans for development of the park are currently stalled while the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) conducts an environmental investigation of the former dump site. NC DEQ's investigation is expected to be complete by the end of 2022 and Orange County has initial plans to build additional park facilities in 2026-2027.³⁵

PUBLIC PARK ASSESSMENT

Public Park Audit

During summer 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action interns conducted a public park audit of Fairview Park. The interns utilized AARP's Public Space Audit along with supplemental worksheets developed by UNC FFORC. Together the assessments identified strengths, challenges, and possible improvements for the park. Findings (outlined in Appendix F) from the audits indicate the following:

- *Users:* The interns reported that Fairview Park supports a range of users, including residents of all age groups (from young children to older adults) and differing accessibility needs (such as residents with low-vision or residents using a wheelchair.). However, there are opportunities to increase accessibility for older adults and those with accessibility needs.
- *Use of Space:* The space is typically used by residents to play different kinds of sports or play games, as well as to gather and socialize.
- *Quality of Space:* The majority of the space's features were rated as good or fair. Overall cleanliness was rated lowest.
- *Atmosphere:* The space generally made participants feel comfortable, and relaxed. Auditors indicate some concerns around the safety and social aspect of the space.
- *Connection to Community:* The park is strongly connected to the rest of the community for walking and biking. Variables such as sidewalks

and the shortcut help connect the space to the neighborhood.

- *Challenges:* Auditors noted a variety of challenges for the space, including overall access for older adults, such as lack of shade in a few places. Additionally, participants noted a community perception that Fairview residents do not always feel welcomed or safe in the park.
- *Existing Strengths:* Auditors identified primary strengths of the space, including the park's different available activities, seating options, trails, and landscaping in some areas.
- *Existing Weaknesses:* Auditors identified some limitations to the building, including general building upkeep (cleanliness, broken light, visible cords), unused or underutilized space, harsh lighting, lack of outdoor seating, and walking connection to Fairview Park and other community areas.
- *Possible Improvements:* Auditors provided several initial ideas for improvements to the building, including making the building more colorful, adding public art, more types of seating, landscaping, technology, information, and a sense of culture.
- *Future Opportunities:* Auditors listed several hopes they have for the space in the future, including: community events, exercise classes, social clubs, a place to receive aid or support, a place to hang out and gather, a place for young people.



GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The interns utilized findings from their assessment of the building to establish the following goals, objectives, and recommendations for the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. With feasibility and prioritization in mind, the interns specifically narrowed their focus on three primary areas of the community center: 1) lobby and meeting space, 2) the three classrooms, and 3) the outside area of the building.

Objectives 3.1: Expand recreational opportunities for Fairview residents

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add a recreation equipment station (such as soccer balls, horseshoes, volleyballs) that residents can use to play games. 2. Install a little free library 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add temporary soccer equipment to existing baseball field (see Appendix H for reference) 2. Develop walking trails that connect to Fairview (including the garden, community center, & Rainey/Homemont) 3. Add a volleyball court 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build a permanent soccer field 2. Install a calisthenics park for outdoor exercise (see Appendix H for examples.) 3. Build an amphitheater for outdoor events 4. Install a splash pad (for all ages) 5. Build an ice / rollerblading rink

Objective 3.2. Maintain a safe and accessible environment.

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the frequency of park maintenance, removing litter. 2. Fix water fountains. 3. Update signage around the walking trail. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinstate summer park monitoring program 2. Add dog waste areas around the park. 3. Add more seating around the park. 4. Install a mural and chalk art along the park entrance. 5. Add bike racks by Torain St. parking lot. 6. Plant trees for shade around portions of walking trail and seating areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install lighting in the Torain St. parking area and around the park. 2. Ensure park is wheelchair accessible 3. Add more bathrooms as park expands

Element: Public Parks and Green Spaces
Goal 3: Improve and expand transit opportunities for Fairview residents
Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand recreational opportunities for Fairview residents 2. Maintain a safe and accessible environment..

Purpose: Ensure that the transportation system is accessible and helps people find the places where they want to go and make waiting for the bus more comfortable and convenient.

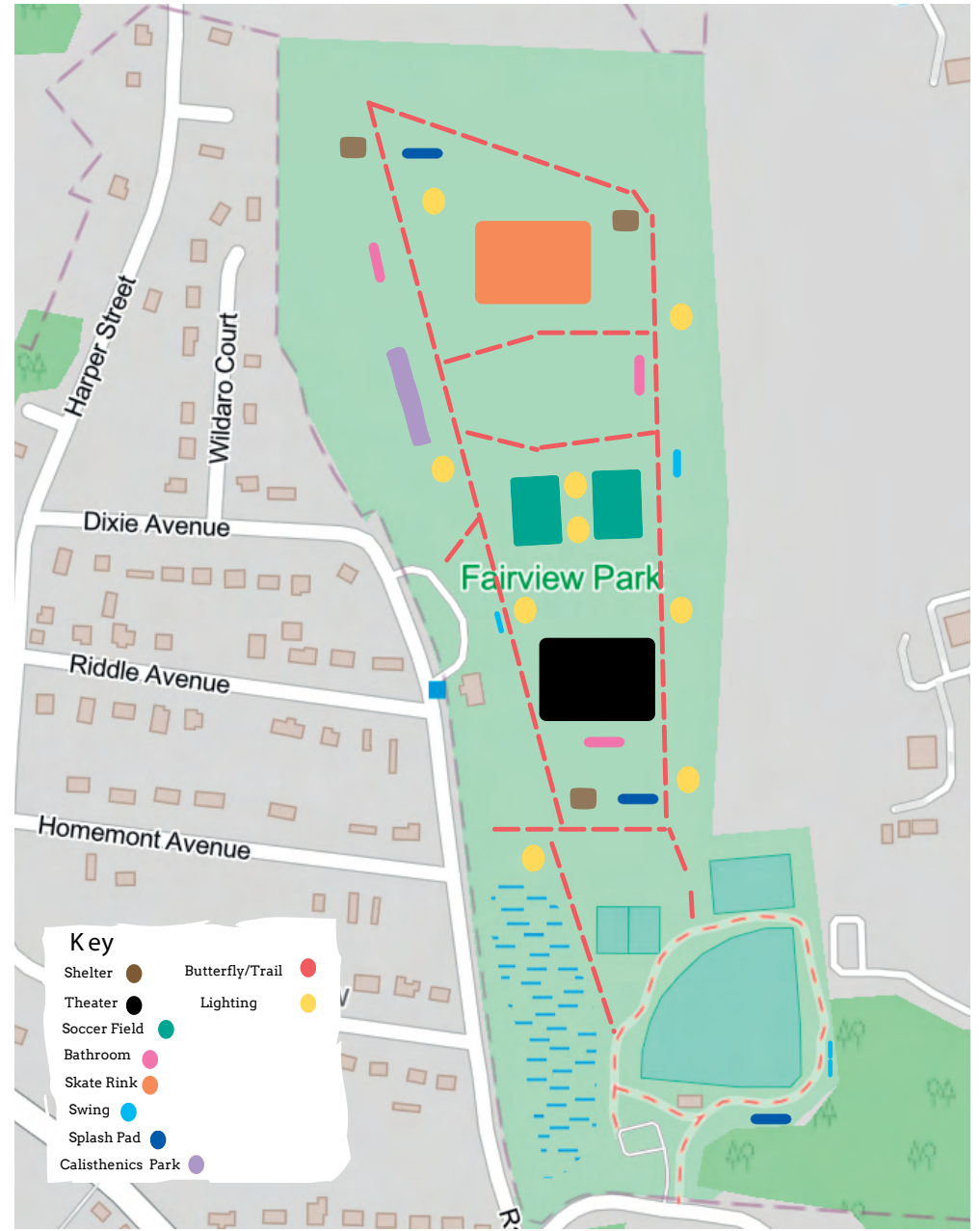


Figure 5.4: Proposed Additions to Fairview Park

SECONDARY ELEMENTS



Element 4 – Cycling (And Other Human-Powered Methods)

BACKGROUND

Cycling, like walking, is a mode of transportation that is widely accessible to a range of people. As a human-powered mode, cycling offers people the opportunity to get physical activity while traveling to their destination, helping to meet the CDC's recommended weekly physical activity target. Like walking, it also provides physical and mental health benefits while offering an emissions-free transportation option and allows residents to interact with their neighbors and see their community from a different perspective, helping to connect them to their environment. An added benefit of cycling is that it allows people to cover longer distances much more quickly than is possible by walking, expanding the range accessible without a vehicle and, ideally, expanding access to jobs, shops, and services.

In the United States, investments in cycling infrastructure and programs over the past century have been minimal in comparison to that of driving and even walking. In recent years there has been greater attention paid to improving cycling networks and expanding education and awareness

but there is still plenty of work to do to make cycling a competitive transportation option. As with pedestrian infrastructure, a lack of safe cycling facilities is perhaps the greatest barrier to increased cycling mode share. High-volume and high-speed roadways without separated cycling facilities discourage all but the bravest cyclists from riding. Even local streets are unsafe, with wide streets and a lack of traffic calming measures enabling motorists to drive over the speed limit, putting vulnerable road users at risk.

CYCLING ASSESSMENT

While it ranked below the other measures in order of priority, there was support for a bike lane on Faucette Mill Road. Additional measures that were rated more highly, and would also be a benefit to people cycling include more shade trees and solving the loose dog problem.

Active Transportation Network Planning Workshop

Building on the characteristics of what makes for a good active transportation network as noted in the Walking Element, cycling follows the same principles—coherence, directness, attractiveness, safety, and comfort) and similar recommendations. Below are a few areas where cycling varies from the walking within those principles.

Directness: Cyclists are also sensitive to detours, but have a slightly higher tolerance than pedestrians. Given safe facilities, people can be motivated to choose the bike for trips of less than 3 miles. The directness of their trip should have a detour factor of no more than 1.25. This number is similar for pedestrians, though they tend to favor trips less than 1 mile. Most importantly, the bicycle network should be as direct or more direct than the network for larger modes if the goal is to encourage modal shift from driving to active transportation.

Safety: While cyclists can share the road with motor vehicles slightly more safely than cars, minimizing conflicts between vehicles and cyclists and reducing the risk and severity of conflicts where they may occur is still of the utmost importance. The general guideline to follow is that below 20mph (operating speed of motor vehicles, rather than posted speed), it should be safe enough for cyclists to share the road with cars. Above this speed, they must be given their own physically separated space.

Comfort: Cyclists tend to have a high sensitivity to stopping/starting, so by minimizing energy consumption for active users by reducing the number of stops required, minimizing steep slopes, and avoiding uncomfortable maneuvering like sharp turns or merging into traffic can make cycling easier.

What is Detour Factor?

Detour factor is how far someone must travel out of their way to reach a destination, compared to a straight line from origin to destination. It can be calculated by dividing the actual trip length, by the Euclidean distance (straight line/as the crow flies).



Direct connections for pedestrians and cyclists are key to making active transportation a competitive choice compared to other modes.



Interns illustrated the importance of Torain as a connection for cyclists during Walk Fairview Day.



Bike parking at the Community Center

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the activities completed over Summer 2022, the interns developed a goal and accompanying objectives to improve the cycling environment in and around Fairview.

Element: Cycling

Goal 4: Enhance community connectivity by adding bikeways and other bike amenities in Fairview to be able to bike safely and connect to key destinations.

Objectives

1. Install a bike lane on Faucette Mill Rd. that will connect residents to key destinations.
2. Install and/or improve bike racks at key destinations to connect residents.
3. Improve connectivity between Fairview and other neighborhoods in Hillsborough.

Recommendations and further considerations

Interns discussed measures that would help Fairview streets reach their goal and objectives for a more connected and bikeable community. Those considerations include:

- Sharrows where vehicle speeds are lower than 20 mph
- Identifying Torain St as a priority connection for cyclists and including dedicated cycling facilities.
- Safe intersections for cyclists crossing US 70 and Highway 86 to reach destinations like Downtown Hillsborough and Orange Middle and High Schools
- Street Lighting for visibility and personal security
- Covered bicycle parking

Element 5 – Public Transit

BACKGROUND

Reliable and accessible public transportation options, such as buses, trains, and shared ride options ensure that community members can get to and from destinations they need and want to go. Public transit also supports active modes of transportation, such as walking, biking or other sets of wheels, by expanding the scope of places people can go without relying on a car. Public transit options create numerous community benefits, including decreased social isolation, improved access to community services and amenities, increased physical activity, and reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by car usage.³⁶

Free or low-cost bus service is the primary public transit option for residents living in Fairview. Residents can walk or roll to one of three bus stops located in or close to the neighborhood; these nearby stops can take riders around town as well as across Orange County. Residents who are older than 60 years of age or have a disability also qualify for personalized services offered by Orange County Transit.³⁷

In summer 2022, Fairview Youth in Action interns researched public transit options for Fairview residents, including determining existing services available, assessing the rider of experience of one of the bus routes, and providing recommendations for potential improvements.

TRANSIT ASSESSMENT

Existing Transit Services

Orange County Public Transit (OCPT) operates three regular, fixed bus routes as well as demand response transportation services accessible to the Fairview neighborhood.

Fixed Route:

1. *Hillsborough Circulator*: The fare-free bus route connects major origins and destinations throughout Hillsborough. The bus operates hourly 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.
 - a. Stops within the neighborhood include: 1) US 70/Rainey St, 3) Rainey St/Dorothy Johnson Community Center, and 3) Faucette Mill Road/Cornelius St
2. *Orange - Alamance Connector*: Bus route connects major origins and destinations in Hillsborough, Efland, and, and Mebane. The bus operates hourly, 10:00am - 3:00pm, Monday - Friday. Fare costs are \$2 for general public, reduced or free service for specific populations, such as older adults, children, and persons with disabilities.
 - a. Stops within the neighborhood located at Rainey St/ US 70.



*Hillsborough Circulator Bus
Photo taken juli 2022 during transit audit*



3. Orange–Chapel Hill Midday Connector: Bus connects major origins and destinations in Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, and Cedar Grove. The route operates both northbound and southbound. Bus operates hourly, 9:45am – 3:50pm, Monday – Friday. Fare costs are \$2 for general public, reduced or free service for specific populations, such as older adults, children, and persons with disabilities.
 - a. Stops within the neighborhood located at Rainey St/ US 70.

Demand Response Services: OCPT also provides personalized services qualified individuals (such as older adults (over 60 years old) and individuals with disabilities).

Transit Audit

In July 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action interns conducted a public transit audit of the Hillsborough Circulator route. Interns rode the entirety of the bus route around town, starting and ending at the stop located in front of the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. Interns used their experience to identify strengths, challenges, and possible improvements for the route. Findings (outlined in appendix I) from the audits indicate the following:

- *Users:* Auditors observed primarily adults (25–64) and older adults (65+) using the bus route.
- *Use:* Bus riders used the route for several types of trips, including: school (Durham Technical Community College), errands (Food

Lion, Walmart, barber shop), and recreation (Passmore Center / Sportsplex).

- *Quality:* The bus was clean and had comfortable seating.
- *Atmosphere:* The overall environment was comfortable, safe, and quiet
- *Connection to Community:* The route is very connected to several key destinations around town. Some areas, such as shopping centers with large parking lots were less walkable than downtown bus stops. Information is needed on nearby bike lanes and bike parking
- *Existing Strengths:* The bus service had numerous strengths, including on-time, fare-free service, clean, safe, and comfortable environment, convenient stops and location, wheelchair accessibility, and bike parking.
- *Challenges:* Challenges to riding the bus, included the frequency of service (one per hour), direction of travel (route goes one direction), awareness of services (fare free, schedule), and hours of operation (no evening hours). Additional challenges included no seating or shade at the stops in Fairview.
- *Possible Improvements:* More shade and seating at bus stops, increased awareness of services, and expanding of service times and direction.

Photos of the bus stops taken during the audit process are outlined in appendix J for further observation.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Element: Public Transit
Goal 5: Improve and expand transit opportunities for Fairview residents.
Objectives
4. Decorate the lobby and meeting space beautifully and efficiently to make every resident and visitor feel welcomed.
5. Convert three existing offices into functional and accessible classrooms.
6. Beautify the exterior of the building to make the space more attractive and usable.

Objective 5.1: Improve accessibility and safety at bus stops in Fairview

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update existing bus schedule with large, easy to read schedule and map in English and Spanish. 2. Add inexpensive seating at the bus stop on Rainey St. / Community Center. (see Appendix K) 3. Add inexpensive seating at the bus stop on U.S. 70 /Rainey St. (see Appendix K) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add permanent seating at bus stops at Rainey St./Community Center. 2. Add permanent seating at the bus stop on U.S. 70 /Rainey St. 3. Add a trash can at the bus shelter on Faucette Mill Rd & Cornelius St 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add shade at the bus stop on U.S. 70/Rainey St. 2. Add permanent seating at bus stops located at Rainey St/ Community Center 3. Improve wheelchair access at bus stop on U.S. 70 /Rainey St.

Objective 5.2: Increase awareness of public transit options

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post bus route and schedule information at the Dorothy Johnson Community Center 2. Share bus information to Fairview Eye on the View neighborhood newsletter 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule workshops on bus riding, bus safety, and online tools for Fairview residents 2. Update existing bus schedule with large, easy to read schedule and map in English and Spanish (all three bus stops) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide incentives to encourage and increase ridership among Fairview residents



Objective 5.3: Expand bus services for Fairview residents

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess Fairview residents desired bus usage (such as destinations, timing, and other needs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand hours of operation of Hillsborough Circulator route to include evening hours 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase frequency of Hillsborough Circulator route to every 30 minutes 2. Expand Hillsborough Circulator route to include both directions.



Interns identified improvements to current bus stops, like adding a shelter to the Community Center Stop

Element 6 – Healthy Food Access

BACKGROUND

Maintaining a nutritious diet is foundational to a healthy lifestyle. However, many communities across North Carolina do not have stable access to healthy food, leading to high rates of food insecurity and poor health outcomes. For instance, recent data show that over one in three children and adolescents are obese or at risk of becoming obese.³⁸

Access to healthy, affordable food options that are close and convenient to residents lead to improved healthy eating behaviors. Fairview residents have access to healthy food through a variety of options, including the Fairview Community Garden and regular food distributions organized by Porch Hillsborough, a local nonprofit addressing hunger.

HEALTHY FOOD ASSESSMENT

The Fairview Community Garden has been a place where Fairview residents have access to fresh produce within walking distance of their homes. Community gardens are associated to health gains for their users, irrespective of age, being an affordable and efficient way of promoting physical activity and mental health and well-being.³⁸ Community members have the opportunity to plant and harvest seasonal crops in the Fairview Community Garden which is located on Tulip Tree Rd. The garden was initiated as Tulip Tree Community Garden in

2009 and in 2011 the garden became a sponsored program of the Community Watch Group. With the help of Master Gardeners, community members plant, maintain, harvest and share produce with the community and educate everyone about growing and enjoying healthy foods. In 2012, the garden was supported by a Self-development of People Grant and partnered with the Orange County Health Department and Cooperative Extension to receive an NC Eat Smart Move More Grant. Since 2015, the community garden has partnered with UNC-CH to provide stipends for garden coordinators to manage garden workdays, garden records, and recruitment of members.

The garden currently has a fenced garden area with 12 raised beds measuring about 50 X 50 feet. In addition, 4 raised beds that are about 3 feet in height are located outside the fenced garden (see conceptual master plan below). The garden is located on Habitat for Humanity of Orange County land and an average of about 12-14 families garden and/or participate in garden work days, events and other programs.

In an effort to increase healthy food access and nutrition education to families, in 2018, the Green Thumb Club was initiated with support from local churches and a partnership with No Kid Hungry NC. In 2018, the summer program was awarded the “Superior Site Award” from the NC Department of Public Instruction. The free 8-week program was provided for children ranging from 5-12 years old.





This program is such an asset to the community that despite COVID-19, participants, volunteers and coordinators were committed to keep the program going.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fairview Community Watch built a partnership with PORCH – Hillsborough, a hunger relief non-profit organization. Since May 2020, PORCH-Hillsborough has brought food resources to the Fairview Community via monthly drive-thru food distributions. Some of the items they have provided are non-perishables, fresh fruits and vegetables, a variety of protein foods, and grocery gift cards. . Having the food distributions, especially during the start of the pandemic, has helped families have some food access resources within reach of their community. During the Spring of 2022, the active garden members and coordinators started receiving monthly \$25 vouchers to the local Farmer’s Market in Hillsborough.

Neighborhood environments are important because they contribute to people’s healthy food access. When the Youth in Action Program started in 2018, the youth volunteered at the community garden and learned about gardening. The Master Gardeners, Diana Montgomery and Pascale Mittendorf, worked directly with the youth and led gardening activities

along with other garden coordinators. Some of the youth developed an interest in gardening and invited their friends and families to work along them in the garden.

Open spaces, like the Fairview Community Garden, can provide opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors to socialize, be more involved in their neighborhood, and learn about healthy food options.

- *Users:* The garden is open and available for any Fairview resident. People of all ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds can work, harvest, and volunteer in the garden.
- *Future Opportunities:* A hope that has been thought of is expanding the garden to add additional space for raised beds and increase food access for Fairview residents.
- *Future Opportunities:* As part of sustainability, the Town of Hillsborough could provide organizational structure for the Fairview Community Garden to provide grant funds for support and in-kind equipment contributions to promote healthy food access and encourage active living.
- *Challenges:* Some challenges that the garden has had difficulty with is lack of community awareness and participation.

- *Challenges:* Funding sustainability for garden coordinators.
- *Existing Strengths:* The Fairview Community Garden is home for the Green Thumb Club which is a free program for kids between the ages 5–12 that exposes children to gardening, physical activity, nutrition education, composting, arts and crafts and environment-based education. Garden Coordinators manage garden workdays, collect data, and recruit garden members. Long-term partnership with FFORC from UNC – Chapel Hill that provides stipends for garden coordinators to collect, engage and recruit community garden members to access healthy food options.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Element: Healthy Food Access

Goal 6: Provide healthy food access opportunities and initiatives to Fairview residents.

Objectives

1. Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables through various outlets and nutrition education opportunities (expansion of the community garden, nutrition education workshops at community center).
2. Maintain and/or improve food distribution options and/or opportunities in the community.



Photos: Fairview Garden raised beds, compost activity and nutrition education workshop for children



Objective 6.1. Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables through various outlets and nutrition education opportunities (expansion of the community garden, nutrition education workshops at community center).

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness about healthy food options and resources within close-proximity to the Fairview Community (community garden, food distributions) by improving outreach. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a list of food resources available to Fairview residents to use and share when needed. 2. Clear the area surrounding the garden to have more sun exposure on beds closer to the fence. 3. Provide culturally competent nutrition education workshops, for children and adults in the community center. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install a free community fridge in the community to help increase access to food resources. 2. Expand the Fairview Community Garden by removing trees and stumps from an area of about 80 X 80 ft. to the east of the current garden. 3. Add a composting area with signage to instruct proper use of the composting bins.

Objective 6.2. Maintain or improve food distribution options and/or opportunities in the community

Short-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep partnership with PORCH and Eno River Farmers Market for monthly food distributions and grocery gift cards.. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase participation in garden and food distributions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly provide holiday meals to residents every year through partnerships with local non-profit organizations.

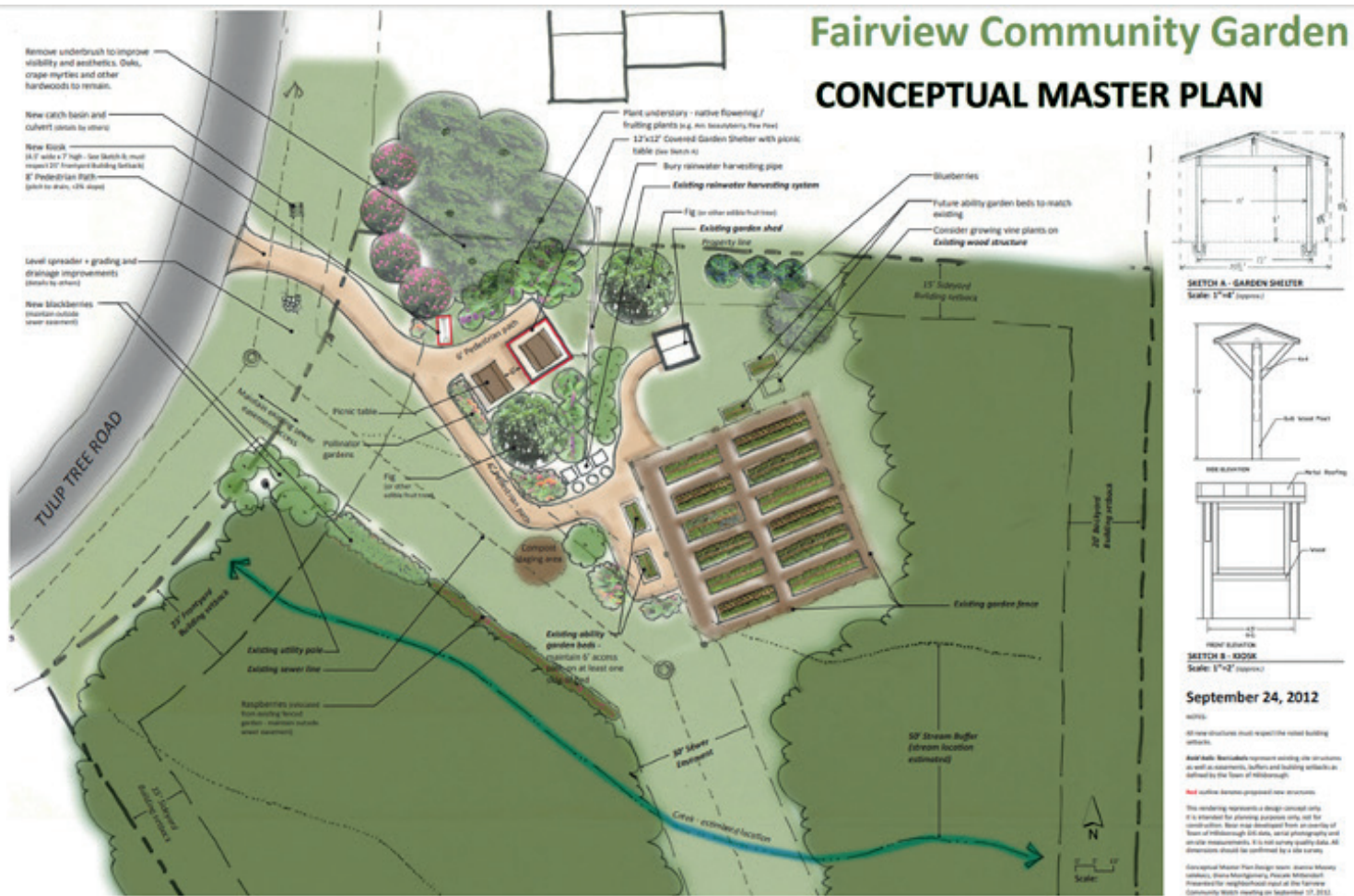


Figure 6.1: Conceptual Master Plan (201





CONCLUSION


Physical activity and a nutritious diet are critical for sustaining good health and preventing chronic diseases. However, the physical characteristics of Fairview, including the roads, public places, and green spaces, currently do not make it safe, convenient, or accessible for community members to make everyday healthy choices.

Over the past four years, a group of passionate young residents in the Fairview Youth in Action program have made it their mission to understand the challenges to active living impacting their community. Through this multi-year, research-informed, and community-engaged process, the interns developed this five-year active living plan, which outlines the goals, objectives, and recommendations they have for improving their neighborhood.

Deliberate and urgent attention among key stakeholders is required to achieve these goals and ensure that Fairview residents have the opportunity to live healthy, active lives. Community members, community partners, and local policymakers must join together to activate the positive change needed to make Fairview a safer, healthier, fairer, and more enjoyable place to live now and for years to come.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Walk Audit Samples



Walk Audit Worksheet


Name: _____
 Date: _____ Time: _____ a.m. | p.m.
 What is your age? (Circle one): Under 13 13-17 18-24 25-44 45-64 65+

Streets Covered: _____

Questions About Your Walk

1. Do you have enough room to walk?
2. Is it easy to cross streets?
3. Do drivers behave safely?
4. Did you experience any challenges to walking?
5. Is the route pleasant?
6. Put yourself in someone else's shoes: How comfortable would you feel walking the route with a child? With someone who has low-vision? With someone using a wheelchair?

Walk Audit Worksheet
1



Walk Audit Worksheet

Quality of Walk Environment

Element	Prevalence (Check One)		
	None	Some	A lot
Litter or broken glass			
Loose Dog			
Speeding Car or Motorcycle			
Skid marks on streets			
Shade from sun in walking area			
Street Noise			
Vacant House or Property			
Seating area (such as a bench)			
Lighting			
Trees or landscaping			
Clear directional signs			
Crosswalks			
Sidewalk or Bike Lane			

Additional Comments

Adapted from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)'s Inclusive Walk Audit Facilitator's Guide

Walk Audit Worksheet
2

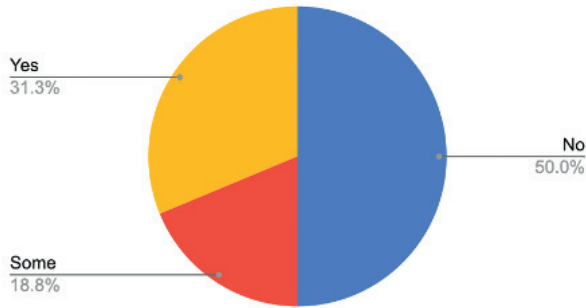
Appendix B: Walk Audit Findings

Dates: June 17, June 24, July 1, July 15, July 16, July 29

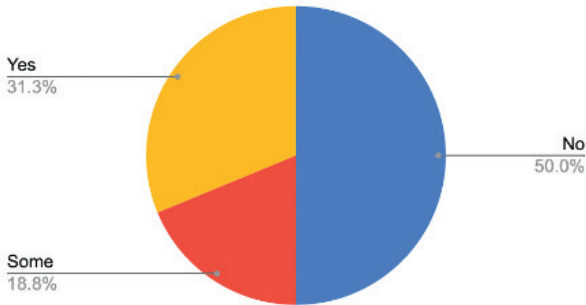
Number of Responses: 32

Streets Covered: Rainey Avenue, Torain St, Lawndale, Homemont Ave., Riddle Ave., Dixie Avenue, Harper Avenue, Tulip Tree, Dalton St. Locust St Hill St.

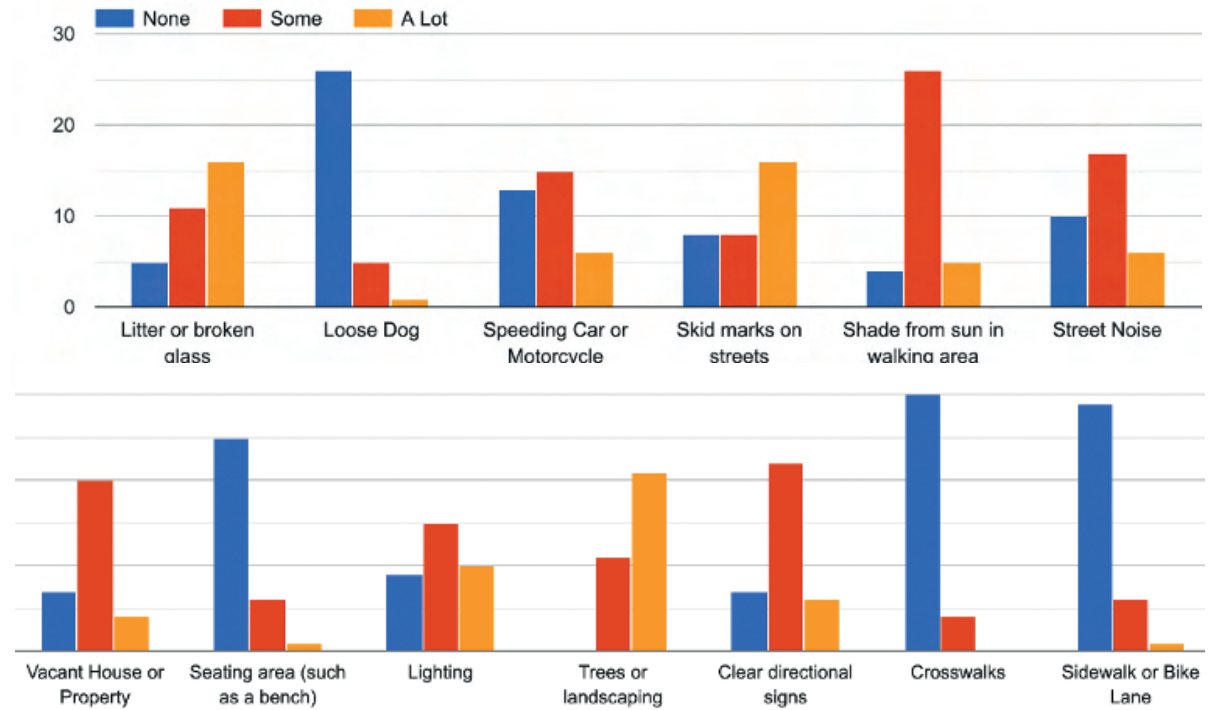
Is it easy to cross streets?



Is it easy to cross streets?



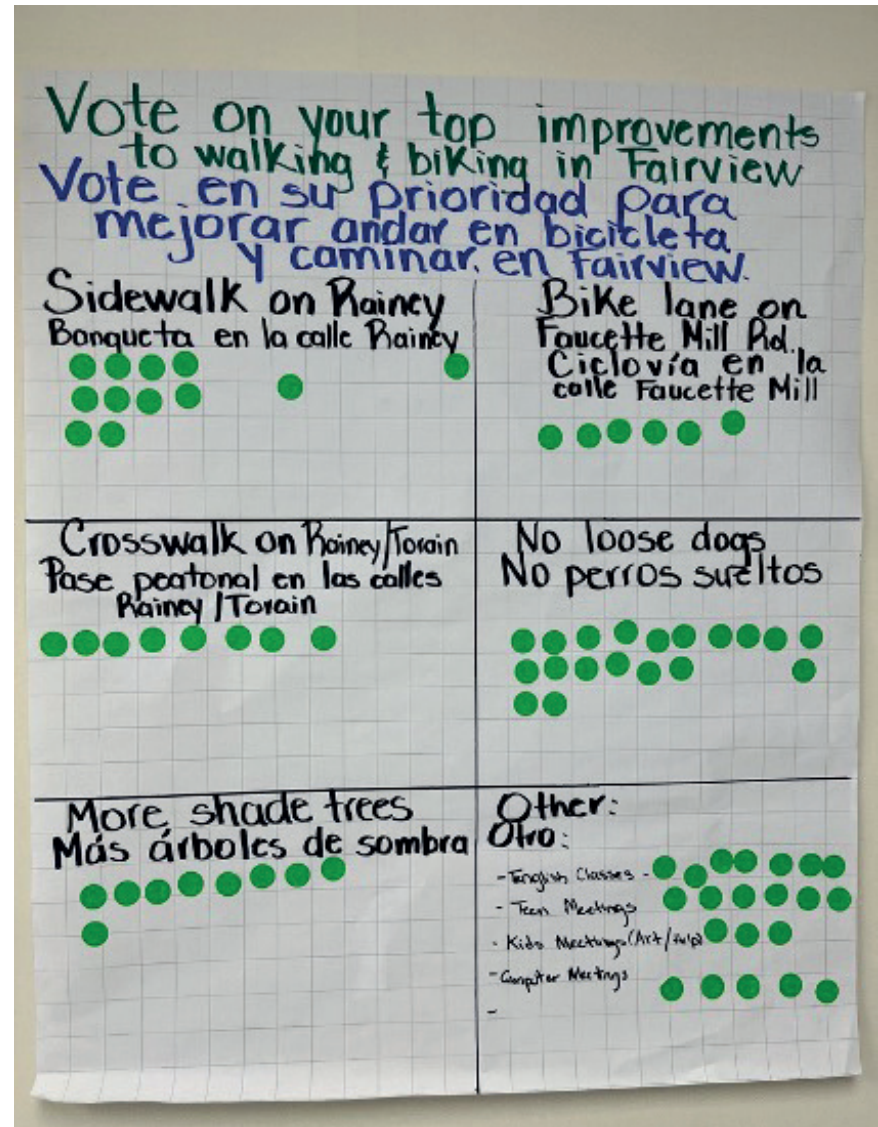
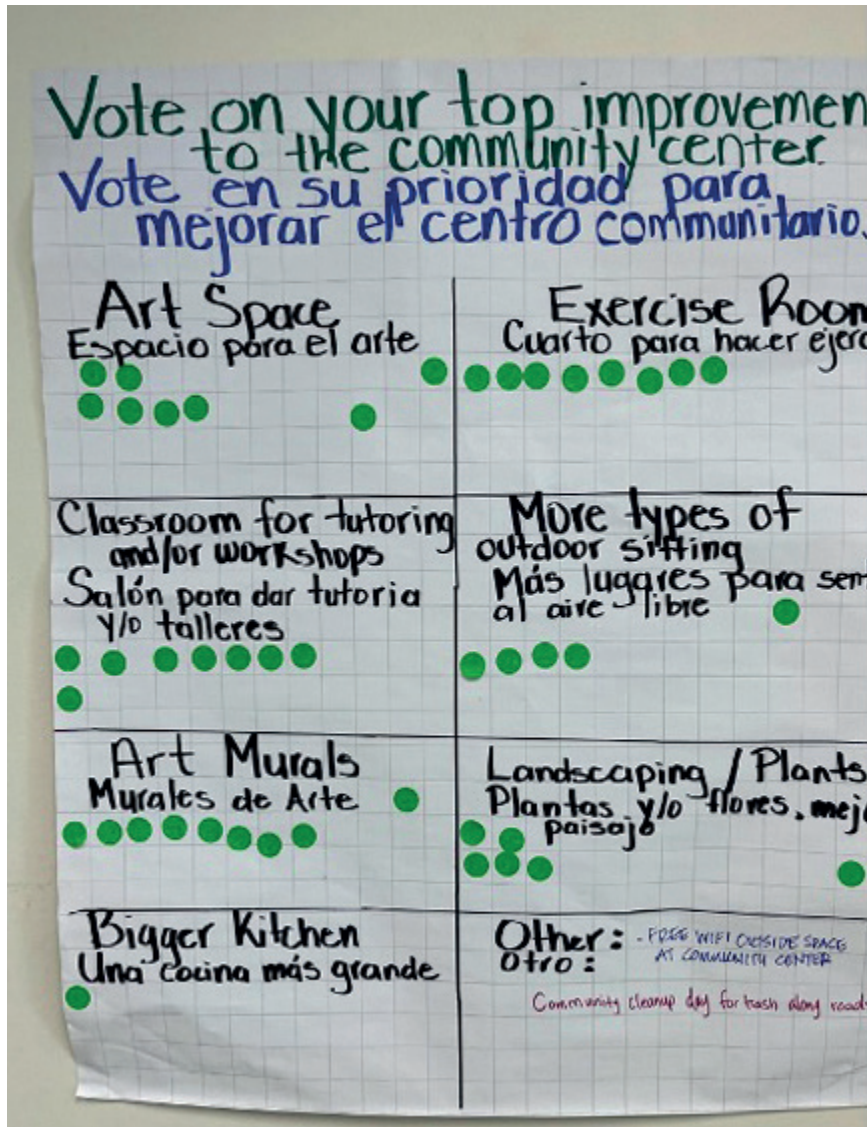
Quality of Walk Environment



Comments:

- No shade at all, No sidewalk, No crosswalk
- A sign that broke on Dixie Ave. No Shade. Need a bus stop. Need a bench
- No sidewalk ramp on the only sidewalk. No benches. No shade on bus stops. Trash on sides of road. I don't know if I saw any "kids at play" signs. Road doesn't look very maintained
- A lot of Potholes. Some loose dogs. Lots of Litter. Roads are really uneven
- Some lighting or a sidewalk could be useful & more accesible to people.
- What could be improved and/or implemented: sidewalk, benches, more accessible playing equipment for all, swings, volleyball court, soccer court, walking trail connected to the Fairview Par
- More benches, sidewalk

Appendix C: Walk Fairview Day Dot Voting



Vote on your top improvements to Fairview Park
Vote en su principal prioridad para mejorar el Parque de Fairview.

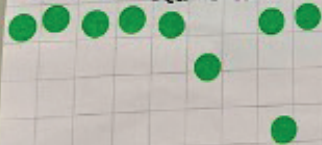
Soccer Field
Campo de Fútbol



Exercise Equipment
Equipo para hacer Ejercicio



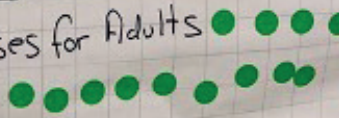
More Walking Trails
(connect garden, park, and community center)
Más senderos para caminar
(conectar el jardín con el parque y el centro comunitario)



More areas for dogs
Más áreas para perros



Other: Computer Classes for Adults
Otro: English Class



Appendix D: Public Place Audit: Dorothy Johnson Community Center

Date: June 24, 2022

Number of Auditors: 7

Location: Dorothy N Johnson Community Center

Address: 502 Rainey Avenue, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Size: 2520 square feet

Owner: Town of Hillsborough

Leasee: Fairview Community Watch

Surrounding Area: Residential

Key Destinations in the Area: Fairview Park, Fairview Community Garden, Fairview Child And Family Center, Bus Stop, Small Play Area

Users of Space

Who will be the primary users of this space?

- Children (under age 13)
- Teens (13-17)
- Younger Adults (18-24)
- Adults (25-64)
- Older Adults (65+)
- People with accessibility needs (such as someone with low-vision or someone using a wheelchair)

Use of Space

On a typical day, how do people use this location?

- People use this location for group meetings
- Meetings or group activities
- A meeting or gathering
- To come together to talk and learn about something.
- For community reasons and for people to get together to do things.
- Many activities and events take place here.
- Use for the Fairview interns to share ideas on how we can change Fairview
- Tag alongs with parents

- A place to gather and do activities
- Can be used as a place to teach people stuff, have meetings, stuff like that

Quality

Rate the quality of the following features

- Cleanliness: 71% of participants rated as good or fair
- Drinking fountains: 100% of participants rated as good or fair
- Lighting: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Places to be physically active: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Places to eat and/or drink: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Places to sit or take a break: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Restrooms: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Shelter from the weather: 100% of participants rated as good or fair
- Street noise: 86% of participants rated as good or fair
- Trees and landscaping: 100% of participants rated as good or fair

Atmosphere

How does this location make you feel?

- Comfortable: 100% of participants either strongly agree or agree
- Playful: 43% of participants either strongly agree or agree
- Relaxed: 100% of participants either strongly agree or agree
- Safe: 100% of participants either strongly agree or agree
- Social: 100% of participants either strongly agree or agree

Why do you feel this way?

- Because there are not many things to explore nor to rest
- The feeling the building gives is very strict/professional due it being bare
- I've been here at multiple occasions, the environment is calm
- Overall it feels like a safe and comfortable building to be in , especially with others.

- It is a bit boring and empty-feeling. That does contribute to the safe and relaxed feelings.
- This center is a great way to meet people and share our thoughts on Fairview. But we definitely need to add more activities.
- Nice areas for classrooms, very open, no clutter, clean, many outlets for other stuff, windows are nice, safe space mostly open walls,

Connection to Community

How well-connected is the location? (Walking and Biking.)

Challenges

What challenges do you see for this location?

<p>0% agree Nearby streets have sidewalks.</p>	<p>50% Clear directional signs or visual cues to guide people to the space.</p>
<p>25% Pedestrian signals at intersections.</p>	<p>0% Traffic is moving at or below the speed limit.</p>
<p>0% Sidewalks and crossings are accessible for people using mobility aids (e.g., a wheelchair).</p>	<p>0% Signals or design elements for blind/visually impaired pedestrians.</p>
<p>100% Secure place to park your bike in the space.</p>	<p>0% Designated bike lanes or trails connected to the space</p>

- Making it look funner, decoration, cleanness
- It can be a little difficult to access this place because of lack of knowledge of events going on and no one to help you enter the center.
- There's a lot of random things in random places that may not be useful and just take up space
- The color of the building. It kinda reminds me of a house, we need to add more color!
- Speeding
- Unsafe: outlets, push pins, wooden board, bugs. Needs seating outside, no color, bus stop needs shade and seat.
- Building looks boring and dull, needs color, nice windows, needs lights, barbecue looks weird, bathrooms inaccessible, needs areas to socialize, overall: boring
- Child safe, outside shelter, need to look more welcoming

Possible Improvements

What elements would improve this place?

- Public art
- More color or art to make it less plain
- Make it accessible for all ages
- More types of seating
- A bus stop (we need one) / shade for it
- Plants, decorations
- More landscaping / greenery
- Better technology, computer, sound system
- More signage
- Less roaches/ cleanliness
- Information, such as classes, schedules, news, town of hillsborough news
- Add sense of culture (flags, recipes that represent the culture/diversity of the community)

Future Opportunities

What opportunities do you see for this location?

- Community events, parties, exercise groups, tutoring, kids / adult clubs
- Places for people of all ages to hang out /gather
- To become a place where many can come together and come for aid if needed. Where people can do activities and take part in the community more.
- Could be very useful to the community and for community events/ activities. It is easy to access this place as there are sidewalks and not a lot of distractions.
- This location can be perfect for young people and people in general. We can use these rooms for many activities.

Strength and Weaknesses Assessment

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of building • Quality of building (Structurally sound, No leaking, Good A/C) • Central location within Fairview • Proximity to a bus stop • Calmness 	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Upkeep: (Cleanliness, bugs, broken light, cords hanging from walls) • Blandness (color, lack of decorations, professional feeling, no places to explore or rest.) • Lacks sense of identity or reflection of the community • Use of building feels disconnected, need more activities
<p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology (Projector, TV, Printer) • Internet Access • Kitchen • Bathrooms • Seating space • Storage • Lighting • Water Fountain 	<p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small classrooms • Poor lighting • Need to ensure areas that need to be are child proof • Unused space • Harsh lighting • No purpose for some of the doors • Carpets in poor condition
<p>Exterior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks • Parking • Playground • Shade from trees • Community Center Sign • Bus stop 	<p>Exterior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not accessible to the park • Uneven ground in some areas • No designated bus seating • No seating outside • Trash on back of building

Appendix E: Dorothy Johnson Community Center Existing Conditions

Below are pictures of existing conditions of the Dorothy Johnson Community Center taken in summer 2022.

Area: Meeting Space and Lobby



Meeting Space



Meeting Space



Meeting Space



Meeting Space Entrance (Proposed Mural Site)



Lobby (facing meeting space)



Lobby (facing classrooms)



Lobby (facing kitchen)

Area: Classrooms



Classroom (115)



Classroom (115)



Exercise Area (112)



Exercise Area (112)



Exercise Area (112)



Exercise Area (112)



Art Space (114)



Art Space (114)



Existing Signage on Doors (111)



Hallway Bathroom



Hallway (111)



Hallway (111)

Area: Outside Entrance and Surrounding Area



Front of building



Side, view from parking lot



Side



Back, view from parking lot



Front, brick wall, right



Front, brick wall, left



Parking Lot



Parking Lot



Grassy area, adjacent to parking lot



Aerial View of Community Center

Appendix F: Park Audit: Fairview Park

Date: July 23, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Number of Auditors: 7

Location: Fairview Park

Address: 195 Torain St., Hillsborough, NC 27278

Size: 92 acres

Special Features and Amenities:

- 1 Lighted, Adult Ball Field
- 3 Lighted Tennis Courts
- 2 Lighted Basketball Courts
- 2 Playgrounds
- 1 Volleyball Court
- 2 Horseshoe Pits
- Picnic Shelter with Restrooms
- Paved, lighted Walking Track (1/4 mile)
- Picnic Area

Surrounding Area: Residential

Users

Who were the primary users of this bus route?

- Children (under age 13)
- Teens (13-17)
- Younger Adults (18-24)
- Adults (25-64)
- Older Adults (65+)
- Someone with low vision
- Someone using a wheelchair

Comment:

- Older adults might have difficulty walking in some areas.
- Children can use this place to play. Young adults could use this place to hang out and get together, same for teens and adults. Adults could bring their children here and watch them. Older adults could come to walk. The park is not very wheelchair or low-vision friendly.

Use

From your observations, how did people use this place?

- They used it to play different types of sports, to get together and play.

Quality

Rate the quality of the place?

- Cleanliness: Poor
- Drinking fountains: Fair
- Lighting: Fair
- Places to be physically active: Fair
- Places to eat and/or drink: None
- Places to sit or take a break: Good
- Restrooms: Fair
- Shelter from the weather: Fair
- Street noise: None
- Trees and landscaping: Fair

Atmosphere

How does this location make you feel?

- Comfortable: 100% of participants agree
- Playful: 100% of participants agree
- Relaxed: 50% of participants either agree
- Safe: 50% of participants agree
- Social: 50% of participants agree

Why do you feel this way?:

- Once I came to walk here people were smoking and drinking.
- There isn't a lot of shade on the trail which isn't pleasant. Hard for older adults to walk on.

Connection to Community

How well-connected is the location? (Walking and Biking.)

- Nearby streets have sidewalks.
- Clear directional signs or visual cues to guide people to the space.
- Pedestrian signals at intersections.
- Traffic is moving at or below the speed limit.
- Sidewalks and crossings are accessible for people using mobility aids (e.g., a wheelchair).
- Signals or design elements for blind/visually impaired pedestrians.
- Secure place to park your bike in the space.
- Designated bike lanes or trails connected to the space

Challenges

What challenges do you see for park users?

- Not very wheelchair and low vision friendly.
- Not a lot of shade which can be unpleasant.
- Hard for older adults to walk.
- Feeling that Fairview residents are welcomed

Possible Improvements

What elements would improve this route?

- More maintenance on the trash problem.
- The water fountains don't function correctly which isn't the best.
- A soccer field would make sense if it existed due to the population of the people in the neighborhood.
- It is a great place where people can get together and play. It is not very handicap-friendly and could use some remodeling in that section.
- Sense of local culture
- Art work

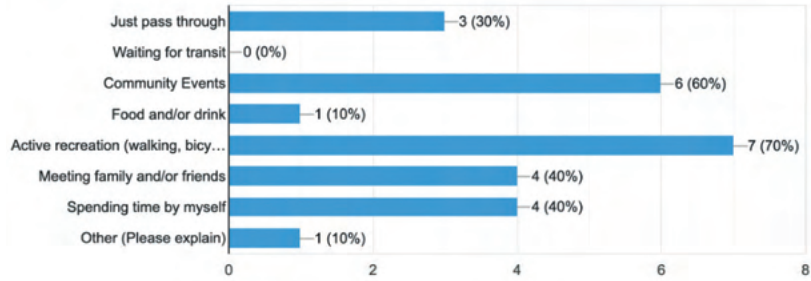
Strength and Weaknesses Assessment

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Picnic area• Bathroom / shelter• Seating area• Entertainment area• Nice trees• Playground• Lots of trash can• Parking area• Activities (a lot) of do• Walkable/bikeable to Fairview Park• Some shade• Kids area shaded• Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More shaded areas• Trash cans NOT maintained• Litter• Only has 1 dog poop center/bags not being restocked• Bike rack not in a good place• H2O doesn't work• People always hogging tennis park• Not much wheelchair access• Steep hill right beside parking lot• No playground/horseshoe equipment• Needs trimming• Basefield not used much (needs multi-use)• Needs soccer field - Needs updating• No lighting on main entrance• No space for dogs to be allowed in.

Fairview Park Survey Responses

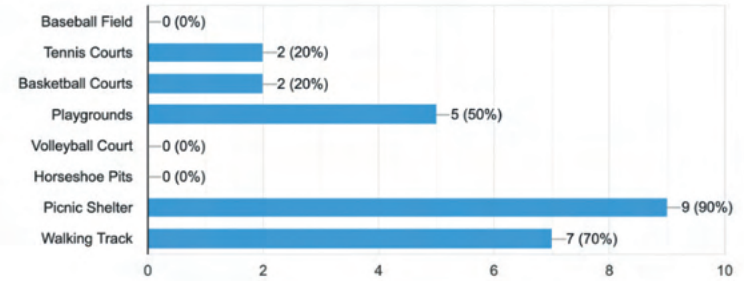
What typically brings you to Fairview Park? (Check all that apply)

10 responses



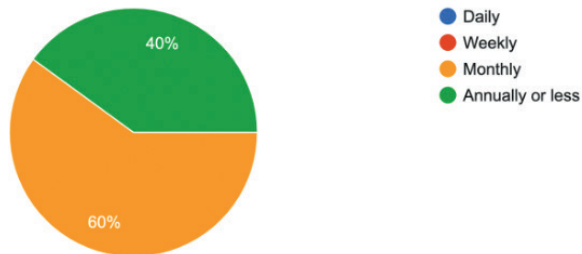
Which features and amenities of Fairview Park have you used in the last six months?

10 responses



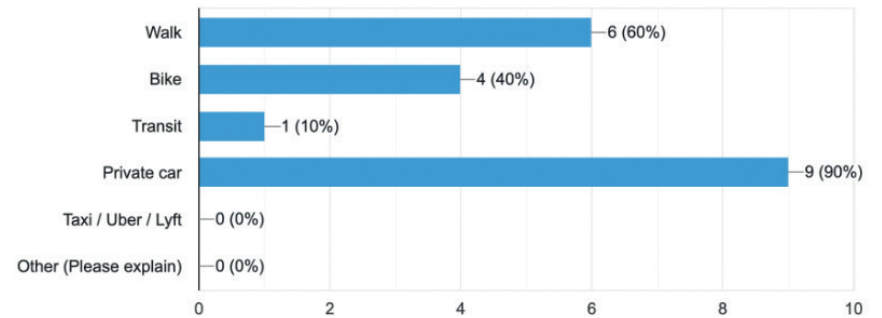
How often do you visit Fairview Park?

10 responses



How do you typically get to Fairview Park? (Check all that apply)

10 responses



What is one positive thing about Fairview Park? (10 responses)

- Very open and has lighting
- good parking
- Good area to hang out
- It's pretty big and has different things to do.
- Very peaceful
- On positive thing Fairview has that is an advantage is that they have a lot of activities for someone to play around with.
- It's clean
- It has walking trail and big picnic shelter
- There is a place to sit and shelter. I like how there is walking space to just walk.

What is one thing you would change or add to Fairview Park? 10 responses

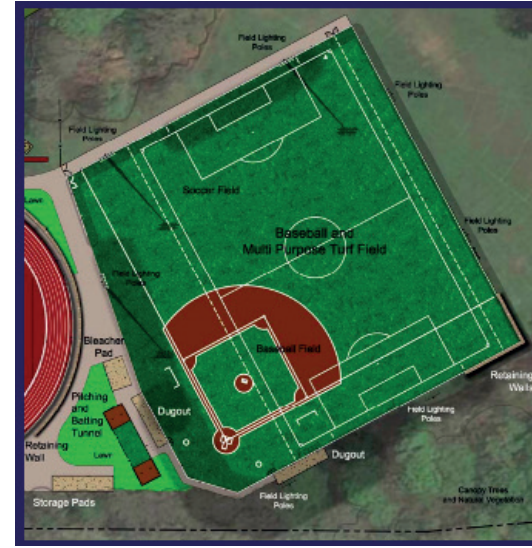
- Add a soccer field
- soccer fields
- I would add a soccer field.
- Soccer field or more games
- I would like to add more swings to the Fairview Park.
- Make more bathrooms that is accessible
- I would like to add a soccer field or make a walking trail more beautiful with flowers and trees.
- Many people I know would love a soccer field added and I know it would be used very frequently. People I know have to drive to Chapel Hill because of lack of a good place to play soccer that's relatively close.
- I don't like how the people who come and play tennis always hog the tennis court and they don't leave at least one tennis court open for families to play!

Appendix G: Fairview Park Key Events

- 1940's – Town landfill opened
- 1975 – Town landfill closed (in conjunction with Northern Fairview community revitalization project.)
- 1983 – County purchases 42 acres of former dumpsite for proposed “Orange County Community Park.”
- 1986 – Orange County Community Park conceptual plan completed.
 - Plan proposed an 84-car parking area, two baseball fields, one soccer field, a fitness trail, a picnic area with shelter and grills, and a playground with “tot lot” and parking for 8 cars.
- 1988
- Fairview community annexed by Town of Hillsborough
- Initial plans adopted in the County's Master Parks Plan.
- 1990 – County built a picnic area, small playground and parking
- 1992 – Tornado. Construction halted. Site used for storm debris
- 1996 – Hurricane Fran. Site used for storm debris
 - 1999 – James Stewart builds “field of dreams”
 - Field built over a portion of the former landfill.
 - 135 boys and girls, ages 7 through 19, joined the Fairview Eagles league.
 - Local teams play on field for two to three seasons before games pause for health concerns.
- 2000 – County conducts environmental analysis, determines site safe. County assumes maintenance responsibilities.
- 2001, – Orange County voters approve a Parks and Open Space bond that earmarked \$850,000 for the park.
- 2006 – Fairview Public Campus Master Plan adopted
- 2009 – Park construction begins
- 2011 – New Fairview Park opened
- 2015
- Orange County name baseball field for James Stewart
 - Fairview Community Watch institute a Park Monitoring program. With support from the county, adult monitors were hired during summer months to promote park safety and distribute sports equipment.
- 2016
 - Orange County complete Fairview Park access and parking improvements
- 2017
 - James Stewart baseball field naming dedication ceremony held
 - Environmental investigation started with N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) to determine use of northern portion of Fairview Park
- 2021 – NCDEQ request additional investigation
- 2022 – NC DEQ investigation expected to be completed.
- 2026 – Orange County expected to build additional park facilities on sections of remediated landfill.



Example multi-use field
Source: [Pine Banks Park](#)



Example multi-use field
Source: [Gale Associates](#)



Example calisthenics park
Source: [Columbia Cascade Fitness Clusters](#)



Example calisthenics park
Source: [Columbia Cascade Fitness Clusters](#)

Appendix H. Hillsborough Circulator – Transit Audit Findings

Date: July 22, 2022

Number of Auditors: 7

Location: Hillsborough Circulator Route

Operator: Orange County Public Transit

Users

Who were the primary users of this bus route?

- Adults (25-64)
- Older Adults (65+)
- People with accessibility needs (such as someone with low-vision or someone using a wheelchair)

Use

From your observations, how did people use the bus?

- Visit to public library,
- Dropped off at apartments
- Many older adults running errands
- Passmore Center
- Grocery store
- Downtown
- Durham Tech Community College

Quality

Rate the quality of the bus

- Comfortable seating
- Clean
- Bumpy ride

Atmosphere

How does this location make you feel?

- Safe
- Comfortable
- Quiet
- Connection to Community
- How well-connected is the location? (Walking and Biking.)
- Many stops around town
- Four grocery stores and two pharmacies
- Shopping center with large parking lots, less walkable
- Three stops within Fairview
- Need for more information on where bike lanes and racks are

Challenges

What challenges do you see for bus riders?

- Frequency of service (once per hour)
- Direction of travel (one way)
- No shade at bus stops
- Need for evening rides
- Possible Improvements
- What elements would improve this route?
- Bus stops
- Frequency of services
- Awareness

Strength and Weaknesses Assessment

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comfortable seating• Reliable service• On time (with schedule)• Affordable / fare-free• Bus is wheelchair accessible• Safe and comfortable• Convenient stops and stations;• Service to high priority destinations• Easy to understand information about public transportation• Ability to bike	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent service• Bumpy• Fast• Need for evening rides• Litter at stops• No shade at bus stops• Need to know where bike racks are

Appendix I. Existing Conditions: Bus Stops

Pictures of existing conditions of public transit stops taken in summer 2022.



US 70/Rainey St



Rainey St/Dorothy Johnson Community Center

Appendix J. Examples of Inexpensive Transit Stop Improvements



Example of Two-Seat Bench
Source: [GoDurhamTransit](#)



Example of a ADA concrete pad
Source: [GoDurhamTransit](#)



Two-seat bench and solar light
Source: [GoDurhamTransit](#)

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