

Masters Park Challenge -- Are You In?

Q and A about this plan:

Why isn't the City of Asheville building the parking lot?

This parking lot is considered a 'Capital Improvement' by Asheville Parks & Recreation. At present, this department has a 4+ year waiting list of capital improvements. As roadside erosion at Masters Park is worsening, the board of directors of the community association determined we cannot wait four years to fix this problem.

Why are off-road parking and a kiosk needed?

Only roadside parking is presently available on Maple Drive frequently resulting in blocked traffic and further erosion. The kiosk is to share information about this unique biological site home to over 200 plant species.

Who is Masters Park named after?

Rory and Hazel Masters were life-long Haw Creek residents who helped found the Haw Creek volunteer fire department among other contributions. For more about the Masters family, please read the Fall, 2008 newsletter linked on the association website: www.ilovehawcreek.com



Longtime residents of Haw Creek may recall the 2009 campaign which led to creation of Masters Park. Our community association partnered with Buncombe County and the City of Asheville with each providing a third of the \$720,000 purchase price for the nine-acre site on Maple Drive which went on to become Masters Park. City plans back then called for a parking lot; however the Great Recession and a shortage of funding stalled progress.

Fast forward twelve years. The park is well loved with an estimated 15,000 visitors a year. We still however only have roadside parking as erosion and congestion worsen. For this reason our community association is undertaking a **fundraising**

campaign to build a 12-vehicle parking lot and park kiosk.

Haw Creek residents have stepped up before and we feel like we can again—with your help. This is the Masters Park Challenge. The improvements will be at least \$25,000. Our goal is raising this amount by June 30th with improvements completed by September 30th, 2021.

Tax deductible donations can be made via our website: www.ilovehawcreek.com

Look for the "Make Donation" button at the homepage bottom. By mail, please send donation checks to HCCA at PO Box 9193, Asheville NC 28815



Current parking at Masters Park

Just in...

We're excited to report an anonymous Haw Creek family has kindly offered a \$10,000 matching grant towards the Masters Park Challenge. This effectively doubles whatever contribution you are able to make.

The Benefits of Membership

Haw Creek residents know our valley is the best kept secret in Asheville. We're not subject to cut-thru traffic, congestion, or high density development. We're close to nature and close to town with a country-in-the-city vibe. We have a lot for which to be thankful.

Still, like the rest of Asheville, development continues as more people move in. Stopping growth is not an option, nor should we seek to. Rather, our community association seeks to balance growth with improvements that benefit all residents.

Haw Creek Park and Masters Park were initiated by our community association as are on-going efforts to expand our sidewalk system and other improvements. In addition, communications like this newsletter and our website are made possible by membership. Your \$20 a year tax-deductible membership dues are an investment in Haw Creek, the place we call home. Please join or renew today at www.ilovehawcreek.com or mail to P O Box 9193, Asheville, NC 28815. Thank you!

School News:

Haw Creek Elementary

PTA Annual Mother's Day plant sale
Saturday, May 8th - 8 to 3
950 Tunnel Road (across from Groce UMC) and featuring
Annuals - Perennials - Hanging Baskets - Ferns

Evergreen Community Charter School

Plant Sale
May 6 and 7
Annuals, hanging baskets, ferns and veggie and herb starts
More details to come!

Community News:

- 1) Asheville Tailgate Market's opening date is April 9 Groce UMC Church 954 Tunnel Rd. 3- 6pm
- 2) For Haw Creek neighbors: St. John's Episcopal Church is offering a curbside Spaghetti Dinner the second Saturday of each month from 6:00 - 7:30. Go to the back parking lot at 290 Old Haw Creek Rd. To order please call 298-3553. Donations appreciated.

President's Message

As this newsletter attests, infrastructure improvements are percolating here in Haw Creek-- a pedestrian bridge, new sidewalks, our first greenway and parking for Masters Park. As well, initiatives are underway to build social capital such as the food trucks, litter cleanups and improving food security. And soon we'll have a fine new library too.

While progress has been slow on the infrastructure improvements, in particular, when the pandemic eases and scientists tell us it's safe, we hope to undertake community outreach later this year to hear your ideas for making our valley a better and safer place to live. By getting ourselves organized and focused, we can apply the full range of citizen advocacy tools needed to address the unmet needs of Haw Creek

In the meantime, we hope, if your budget allows, you support the Masters Park Challenge and join or renew your membership. And, if any of the projects within this newsletter interest you, contact me as can use your help.

Stay safe,
Chris Pelly

Food Trucks Return April 17th

After a long winter of cooking and eating at home, we look forward to food trucks returning to Haw Creek this spring. The good folks at the Haw Creek Commons will continue to offer their parking lot at 315 Old Haw Creek Road for these popular community events organized by the Haw Creek Community Association.

Like last year, the trucks will be here Saturdays from 4 - 7 PM.

Our start date is APRIL 17, with the **GYPSY QUEEN** opening up the season. You can find menu information for each week on our website, www.ilovehawcreek.com,

Let's look forward to seeing friends and neighbors out and about, and keep each other safe with masks and safe distancing.

Renate Ridders
HCCA Board Member



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MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Association shall be available to residents, as well as property owners, in the Haw Creek community and there shall be one class of membership.

DUES: Twenty dollars (\$20) paid once annually in January. Make your check to HCCA and mail to: HCCA; P.O. Box 9193; Asheville, NC 28815 Please include: member names, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.

The Educational Garden Project



Next to the Haw Creek Commons and Bethesda United Methodist Church, sits an interesting plot of land. A sweet garden area tended with love by The Educational Garden Project (EGP) for the community to share. The EGP is a non-profit organization geared toward teaching children and their families about cultivating food. As their website shows, they do that and much more! They encourage simple actions anyone can do (using gardens as a medium) to address equity issues, climate change, hungry households, overused landfills, as well as nutrition and health related issues.

The Educational Garden Project also runs a year round kid's camp that operates completely outdoors.



They have four outdoor "classrooms" on the property where children experience learning: the kitchen, the garden, the forest, and the playground. Staff and volunteers lead many projects; A day related to cooking, gardening, STEM+Art and Self Care; and it's hard to tell who is more engaged in the

activities--staff or the campers!

EGP runs a food pantry service that boxes and distributes food to folks that need a little kindness from neighbors. You might notice their tiny pantry right there on the property for immediate needs. They have assistance from Manna Food Bank, mainly for nonperishable food items and oftentimes a variety of meats.



What they need right now, until gardens become bountiful, are fresh fruits and vegetables.

There are several ways you can help in their effort to teach and feed others.

They have a Flower CSA you can join to enjoy fresh cut bouquets from June to October. They have seed packets (kid gathered and created) on sale just in time for planning your own spring garden. Maybe your slice of Haw Creek would like to organize a food drive to fill additional small pantries or provide fresh produce for the boxes. Or you can always sponsor a child so he/she can attend a session of camp. So many options!

To find more information on The Educational Garden Project or to request food assistance:

theeducationalgardenproject.org
(828)989-9647

Instagram @THE_EDUCATIONAL_GARDEN_PROJECT
Or on FaceBook The Educational Project

Wyndy Bonesteel and Joan Pinegar

Clean & Green Report

Four of our board members (all women) recently tackled the wildly overgrown embankment at our valley's Tunnel Rd entrance. Between cleaning up invasive plants and old discarded signs, we hope this area looks more inviting. We welcome suggestions from Haw Creek gardeners on how to make our entrance more appealing--and helping hands are always appreciated.



As litter around this area is an on-going challenge, we welcome any and all to join our regular cleanups. To learn when the next cleanup is scheduled, contact me at rerikkers@gmail.com.

Finally, a huge Thank You to Asheville Greenworks' Streamkeepers team for their recent deep cleaning of the Haw Creek streambed at our valley's entrance.



Removed was old furniture, shopping carts and more-- pictured below. Greenworks has been an Asheville's environmental leader since 1976 and supporters of our cleanup requests for

many years.

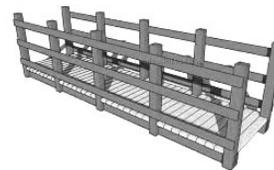
Renate Rikkers

Safety First in 'Downtown' Haw Creek

Among the issues your community association is working to address is pedestrian safety, including where Beverly Rd meets New Haw Creek Rd at PennyCup and Creekside Taphouse. At present, most parking for vehicles is in the larger lot across the creek. This requires patrons to walk in the roadway where Beverly Rd crosses Haw Creek.



A safer solution is a pedestrian bridge connecting the parking lot and businesses. Already in place is a steel structure maintained by AT&T that could serve as a foundation for the pedestrian bridge.



The Haw Creek Asso. is working with stakeholders--business owners, the City, and AT&T--to build a foot bridge and remedy this safety hazard. There are issues to overcome such as flood plain questions, funding, and liability matters.

That said, your community association is committed to finding a solution that makes Haw Creek's "downtown" safer for all residents.

Special thanks to Civil Engineer Chris Day and Creekside owners, Anthony Dorage and Kim Murray, all three Haw Creek residents, for their important contributions to the success of this project.



Haw Creek Community Association
PO Box 9193
Asheville NC 28815

Stay connected with neighbors:

Join Next Door to hear and share neighborhood information. Scan with your smartphone:

