

**Durham Open Space and Trails Commission  
Resolution for a City Open Space Plan**

**Whereas,** the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County Commissioners and makes recommendations regarding open space and trails; and

**Whereas,** the citizens of Durham have shown an interest in preserving open space and have supported bond funding for the Durham County Open Space Plan that is being implemented; and

**Whereas,** the City of Durham has a demonstrated commitment to protecting open space by providing trails, greenways, and city parks; and

**Whereas,** unlike traditional concepts of open space, current concepts of “urban open space” encompass broader environmental and urban design aspects, including but not limited to: community gardens; roadside trees, bushes and plants; benches and bus-stop shelter areas; areas of strategic wildlife habitat unrelated to recreation; rivers, streams, and creek corridors, and creek/bridge crossings; city and county-owned small natural areas and pocket parks; cemeteries and small natural areas around libraries, schools, and hospitals; median plantings; informal pedestrian paths following sewer and power line easements; storm water detention ponds and other potential sites; owner-maintained gardens and entrances to and parking areas of commercial/office properties; and plazas; and

**Whereas,** there are many opportunities to preserve and protect traditional open space and develop urban open space in the City; and

**Whereas,** numerous benefits result from the preservation and protection of vegetated open space, including but not limited to: filtering pollutants and decreasing runoff, reducing water treatment cost and enhancing water quality, reducing urban temperatures and enhancing air quality, providing habitat for animal, bird and insect populations and providing visual relief for urban neighborhoods and the community; and

**Whereas,** all open space enhances the quality of life for its citizens and promotes community investment, growth and development; promotes citizen connections and multigenerational experiences and provides a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

**Whereas,** the Comprehensive Plan specifically identifies urban open space areas that may need further protection (particularly sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) and the Unified Development Ordinance, Trails and Greenways Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Landscape Guidelines and a number of other plans/guidelines that have already been adopted or are in process provide some control and protection of open space in the City, a comprehensive urban open space plan for the City is needed to provide proper guidance for further decision making processes which may include possible acquisition/preservation or development of those areas deemed important to Durham’s quality of life and our environment.

**Therefore,** be it resolved that DOST encourage the Durham City Council to develop a Durham Open Space Plan, which includes provisions for urban open space; that the Plan be placed on the Durham Planning Department's 2007 work plan; and that development of the Plan take place in coordination with the Planning Department, the Parks & Recreation Department, DOST, the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission, and other relevant City departments and citizen organizations.

**Adopted** this 13th day of February, 2006

William G. Wilson, Chair  
Open Space Committee  
Durham Open Space and Trails Commission