“My Woods....”

A vision for Spencer Woods
NCASLA Community Assistance Team
January, 2012
What we tried to achieve...

• Honor the Stanback family
• Preserve the forest property while providing enjoyment for the public
• Increase quality of life and strengthen community
• Commemorate the donors who made it possible.
Where is Spencer Woods?
Analysis of Existing Info
Public Meetings
Putting ideas down on paper
The Vision for this plan...

• Site
  – Preserve and maintain forest and streams
  – Primitive trails on the interior
  – General access trails on the periphery
  – Public Education / Interpretive signage for natural resources

• Local
  – Neighborhood connection / community preservation
  – Connection to local activities & points of interest

• Regional
  – Connection to Grants Creek Greenway and Yadkin River
Elements of the plan...

- **Local**
  - Neighborhood access points
    - Provide several locations/options for neighborhood access to Spencer Woods
    - Provide several parking improvements for trail walkers on existing town R/W
    - Enhance and preserve sense of community through Rowan St. street tree plantings
  - Connection to local activities & points of interest
    - Linking 8th Street Ball Park to Spencer Woods
    - Main Street linkage between Spencer Woods and Transportation Museum
• Regional
  – The connection to Grants Creek Greenway and eventually the Yadkin River will provide greater hiking distances and access to regional scale recreational opportunities that may include cross country running & eco-tourism.
The Stanback Loop
Approx. 1.75 mi.
Elements of the plan...

- **Site**
  - Encourage limited access
    - Preservation of the forest is primary
    - Limited, informal parking
    - Primitive trails on the interior of the site
    - More developed access on the periphery for those less able to hike on the primitive trails
  
- **Environmental Education**
  - Provide opportunities for schoolchildren and other groups to learn from Spencer Woods
  - Create a system of interpretive signage to educate visitors along the pathways
Trail System Concept

- General Access Trail
- Boardwalk
- Stanback Center for Urban Forests (Future)
- Overlook / Deck
- Primitive Footpath
Observation Decks / Outdoor Education
Simple footbridges
And boardwalks
Educational signs

Educational and marketing brochures

Commemorative plaques
Elements of the plan...

- The Stanback Center for Urban Forests
  - Educational resource for the community
    - Meeting room
    - Sustainable design
    - Redevelopment and reforestation of Salisbury Ave. frontage of the site
  - Research and Preservation Partnerships
    - Possible cooperative program with Catawba College
    - Possible co-location with Land Trust
  - Funding effort required
Existing conditions

Pedestrian suspension bridge over ravine

Building and site ideas
Possible Future Acquisitions With Property Owner Cooperation

Acquire

Town-owned
Phased Tasks…

• Define trails
  – Field locate primitive trails on sites interior
  – Stream cleanup / assessment for problems
  – Field locate general access trail linking 8th St. Ball Park to Spencer Ave.
  – Field locate general access trail linking Spencer Avenue to S. Yadkin St.

• Construct Trails
  – $100K Construct general access trail linking 8th St. Ball Park to Spencer Ave.
  – $140K Construct general access trail linking Spencer Ave. to S. Yadkin St.
Phased Tasks...

- Open neighborhood access points
  - $50K Provide gravel parking improvements / trail heads @ 8th St. Ball Park, Spencer Ave., Rowan St. & S. Yadkin St.
  - $15K Provide interpretive signage and commemorative signage
  - $25K Incorporate rest stops (benches), vistas (observation deck) and creek crossings (primitive bridges)
  - $10K Marketing - Promote “Stanback Loop”
  - $15k - Incorporate Street trees along Rowan St. as a visual cue for Spencer Woods

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Phased Tasks…

• **Property acquisition???**
  – Kudzu Eradication / Reforestation
  – Main St. access / linkage to Transportation Museum
  – Look for opportunities to do strategic acquisitions to protect the existing woods

• **Stanback Center for Urban Forests**
  – Partnerships?
  – Building construction? $$$$$$$$$$
The Legacy…

Preserve and enhance Spencer Woods… for the next generation!
Thank you…

• For letting us be a part of your community for a few days…
  - Derrick Williams, ASLA
  - Augie Wong, ASLA
  - Chris Estes, ASLA
  - Dan Howe, ASLA, AICP
  - Lynn Raker, ASLA

• Special thanks to the NC Transportation Museum and The Land Trust for Central NC for making this possible

Spencer Woods
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