MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, November 19th 2025 - 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Reba Osborne, Citizen Member Jackson Tate, Citizen Member JD Powers, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Members Absent:	Lauren Wise, Vice Chair, Council Member Howie Granat, Citizen Member Daniel Jesse, Citizen Member
Staff Present:	Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Wilson Hooper, City Manager Paul Ray, Planning Director Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director Katherine Poe, Planner Madalin Baker, Administrative Services Manager

A. Welcome & Call to Order

A. Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

A quorum was certified by M. Baker.

C. Approval of Agenda

J. Powers made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by J. Tate. All voted in favor.

D. Approval of Minutes – October 15th, 2025

J. Tate made a motion to approve the minutes, and R. Osborne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

E. Friends of Franklin Park – Adopt-A-Green Space Application

Katherine Poe, Planner, presented Ron White's application to the Board. She shared R. White has assembled a Friends of Franklin Park organization to handle light maintenance work in the park, pending Board approval, under the guidance of the City's existing adopt a green space program.

Following discussion, J. Tate made a motion to approve the creation of the Friends of Franklin Park, J. Powers seconded, passed unanimously.

F. Updates

1. **Estatoe Trail Update**
   P. Ray and W. Hooper provided a recap of the updates D. Todd shared at the October meeting. Regarding the Tannery North smokestack, W. Hooper re-emphasized the compromised structure of the smokestack, and said options for restoration or demolition were still being reviewed and evaluated at the staff level, considering elements like the price point and timeline of each method for making the area safe for future trail users. Board members asked additional clarifying questions. W. Hooper said staff hope to bring a recommendation on next steps to the Board in the near future.

2. **Estatoe Boardwalk Update**
   W. Hooper and D. Todd shared draft drawings for the street crossing design at the intersection of Fisher Rd. and Pender Ln (Attachment A), which will serve as a temporary solution to the temporary trail realignment. D. Todd recounted details shared at the last meeting, regarding challenges with trees and stormwater drainage in the area. D. Todd clarified the temporary trail realignment would likely need to be in operation for two years. M. Copelof shared she had received positive feedback from homeowners along the trail who had previously been concerned about the route of the trail, citing they were very pleased with the privacy fence the City installed.

G. Bracken Update on New Trails & Recommendation for New Trail Name

A. Bland shared that the funding goal had been met for the proposed new trails in the attached map (Attachment B), thanks to the efforts of many local organizations and community members. Pisgah Area SORBA's contribution was the final contribution to achieve that goal. He shared they anticipate being able to construct the trails at a good rate, citing a recent bid they received. Gary Lowden shared additional details, noting that all three proposed new trails would be beginner or intermediate level difficulty and could open as early as April of 2026, as they have been in conversation with a very motivated and excited builder. A. Bland reviewed the proposed new names of the trails with the Board (Attachment C). A. Bland shared his excitement with the board and said he was happy to be able to name one of the trials after former councilman Mac Morrow, who has been a passionate supporter of the Bracken Preserve for many years.

R. Osborne made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the name of section 1 of the new trail (*Mac Morrow Trail)*, and table the discussion regarding the names for sections 2 and 3. J. Tate seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. Public Comment

None.

I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held December 17th, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

J. Adjourn

R. Osborne made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by J. Powers. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 4:54pm.

Approved: December 17, 2025

Aaron Baker, Chair or
Lauren Wise, Vice Chair

Madalin Baker
Administrative Services Manager



CYBR003

OPTION 2

FISHER RD
AT PENDER LN

PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING
EXHIBIT

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

DIVISION 14

SCALE
0 10
1" = 10'

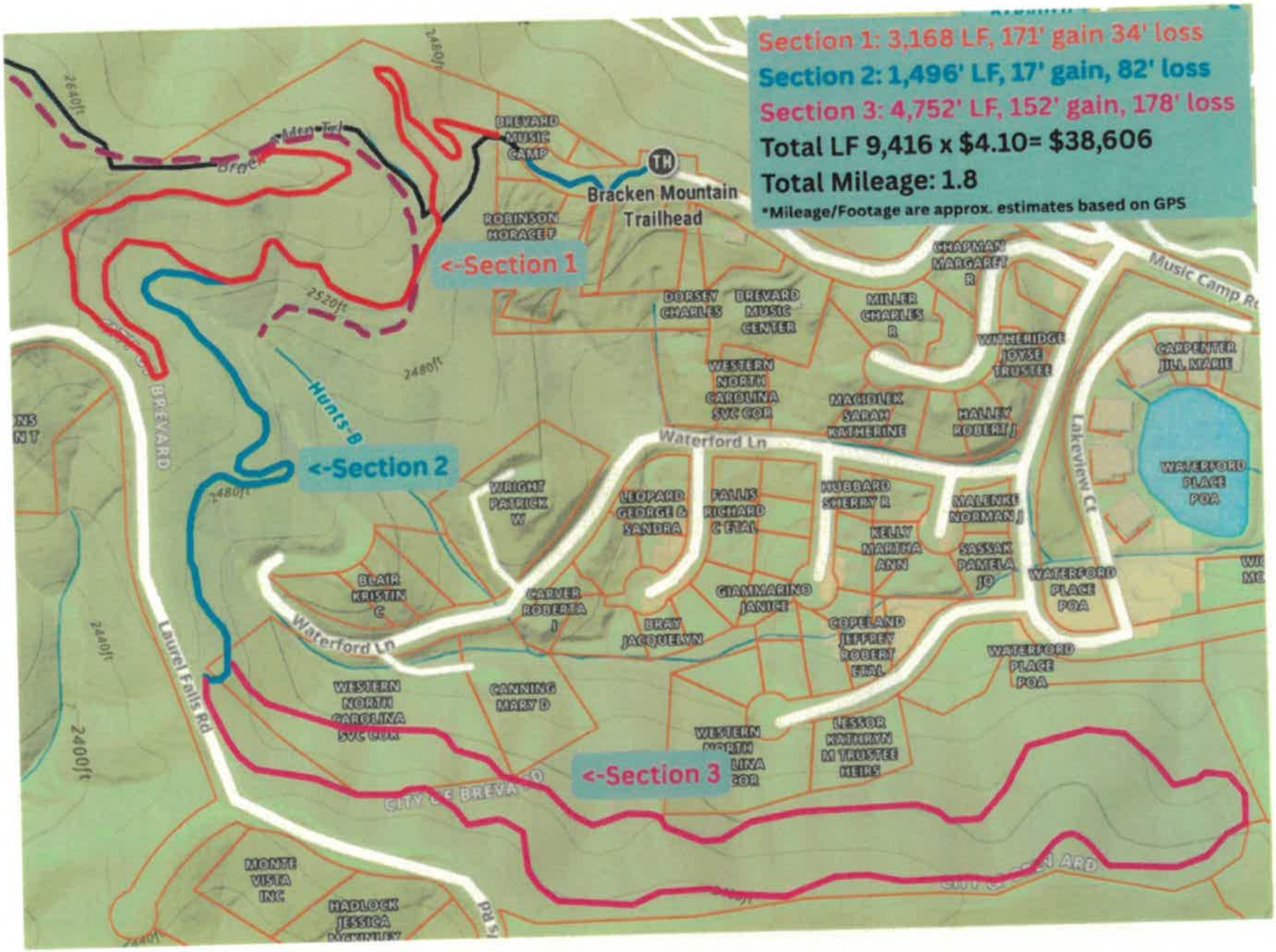
McADAMS

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PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION


Section 1: 3,168 LF, 171' gain 34' loss
Section 2: 1,496' LF, 17' gain, 82' loss
Section 3: 4,752' LF, 152' gain, 178' loss
Total LF 9,416 x $4.10= $38,606
Total Mileage: 1.8
*Mileage/Footage are approx. estimates based on GPS
Bracken Mountain Trailhead
TH
<-Section 1
<-Section 2
<-Section 3
Hunts-B
Waterford Ln
Laurel Falls Rd
BREVARD
Music Camp Rd
Lakeview Ct
BREVARD MUSIC CAMP
ROBINSON HORACE F
DORSEY CHARLES
BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
MILLER CHARLES R
CHAPMAN MARGARET R
WITHERIDGE JOYCE TRUSTEE
CARPENTER JILL MARIE
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SVC COR
MACDILEK SARAH KATHERINE
HALLEY ROBERT J
WATERFORD PLACE POA
WRIGHT PATRICK W
LEOPARD GEORGE & SANDRA
FALLIS RICHARD C ETAL
HUBBARD SHERRY R
MALENKE NORMAN J
KELLY MARTHA ANN
SASSAK PAMELA JO
BLAIR KRISTIN C
CARVER ROBERTA J
GIAMMARINO JANICE
BRAY JACQUELYN
COPELAND JEFFREY ROBERT ETAL
CANNING MARY D
LESSOR KATHRYN M TRUSTEE HEIRS
MONTE VISTA INC
HADLOCK JESSICA
2480ft
2520ft
2640ft
2400ft

The City of Brevard
North Carolina

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee
From: Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director
Subject: Names for New Trails in Bracken Preserve
Date: November 19, 2025

Construction of new trails in the City's Bracken Preserve is set to begin before the end of the calendar year. In order to update maps and other Bracken documents, these trails need to be officially named. Staff is requesting that the Committee recommend three names for the new trails for consideration by the full City Council, who would then officially name the trail. See included map for outline of the new trails.

Staff recommends the following names:

- Section 1: *Mac Morrow Trail*
  Long-serving City Council member and key champion of preserving both Bracken tracts.
- Section 3: *Laughing Water Loop*
  Blackfoot woman who escaped slavery and settled in the area.
- Section 2: *Laughing Water Connector*

Other potential names based on the property's characteristics and history:

- *Mountain Rush Trail* – a rare plant found in Bracken's seep complexes
- *Galax Trail* – a common plant in Bracken and the greater Appalachians
- *Squawroot Trail* – an unusual parasitic plant that grows on oak tree roots in Bracken
- *Rich Cove Trail* – a type of forest habitat found in Bracken
- *Hunts Branch Trail* – creek with headwaters on the new Bracken expansion parcel; combines with Brushy Creek south of the Music Center to make Norton Creek
- *Bailey Loop* – name of a prominent family who lived in the Pinnacle community

The Committee should come to consensus on names for the three new trails and officially recommend the names to City Council via a motion and vote.