



# BACKGROUND AND CONCEPT

## BIOPHILIA IN REID PARK



**Biophilia** - the love of life and living systems. Some scientists believe that humans have an instinctive need to be close to nature. In fact, studies have shown that experiencing nature has health benefits such as decreased stress levels and blood pressure.

## NATIVE ANIMALS IN THE PARK

**Crayfish** - *Cambarus bartonii*  
 There are over 40 different species of this aquatic animal in North Carolina creeks and streams. New species are found every year. They average 3 inches in length.



**Eastern box turtle** - *Terrapene carolina*  
 This is North Carolina's only land turtle and is also the state reptile. They can live up to 40 or 50 years, but often get run over by cars while trying to cross the road.



**Red Fox** - *Vulpes vulpes*  
 This is one of two types of fox found in North Carolina. They are the size of a small dog. The red fox eats berries, insects, rabbits, and small rodents.

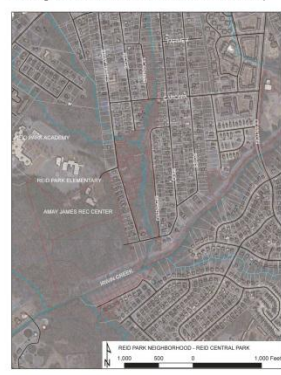


**Raccoon** - *Procyon lotor*  
 Highly intelligent and playful, they use their front paws like hands to capture food in streams. They can live to 16 years, but only average 2, often being run over.



## CONCEPT

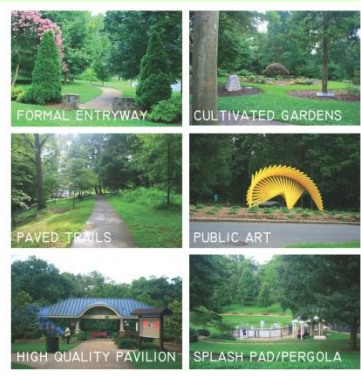
The residents of Reid Park identified a large area in the center of the neighborhood that is currently dark and wooded. It bisects the neighborhood in its blighted state and is an obstruction to connectivity.



Using the successful and well-planned Latta Park in Dilworth as precedent, the residents of Reid Park are suggesting that the wooded area become a similar park. This linear neighborhood park would maintain much of the existing, beautiful tree canopy, but would open up by thinning the underbrush. A network of trails and natural areas would complete the transformation.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF GREENWAYS



## REID PARK AND CHARLOTTE'S WEST SIDE GREEN NETWORK

Charlotte's west side neighborhoods are linked by an amazing network of greenways and parks, some of which are planned, but have not been completed yet. This characteristic is unique compared to other areas of Charlotte.



Reid Park contains several existing CDOT rights of way that do not have roads built in them. The 1995 Reid Park neighborhood plan called for new roads to be built in these rights of way. Multi-use paths are cheaper than new roads and they allow pedestrians and bicyclists to go between blocks, rather than cars, making streets safer and more pedestrian friendly.



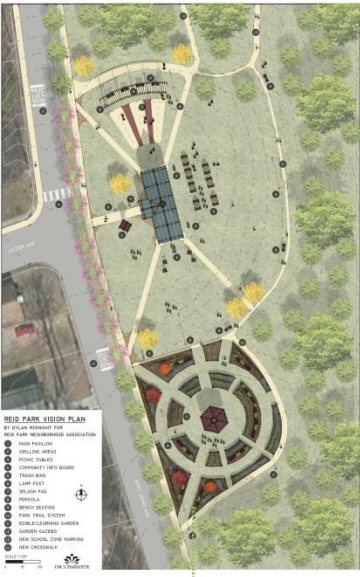
Residents of Reid Park have noticed speeding down their streets. Streets with long straight segments can encourage higher speed traffic. With limited sidewalks in the neighborhood, residents walk and play in the street. This project seeks to recommend traffic calming measures throughout the neighborhood.

# VISION MASTERPLAN

**THE PROJECT:** This project has been produced as part of my master's capstone requirements for the department of Geography at UNC Charlotte. The residents of Reid Park were kind enough to let me work with them in a participatory design and planning process. The information on these boards is the result of those processes that began in June 2013. The idea for this linear park began in the early 1990s in neighborhood planning processes accomplished with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning department and residents of Reid Park. Similarly, new connective streets were planned at the same time, some of which were built, many were not. This plan proposes new multiuse paths to connect blocks from east to west where the plan from 1995 advised new streets to be built. Stakeholders from several branches of local government were consulted during this planning process. I met with a core group of residents every two weeks and we presented our progression and consulted a larger group of Reid Park residents at four monthly neighborhood association meetings.

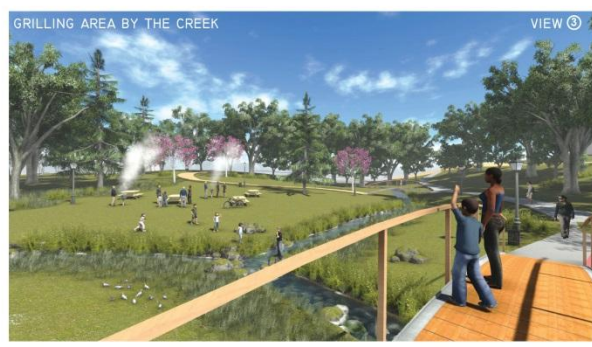
-Dylan McKnight





## NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN & EDIBLE

**21st Century Natural Learning Environment**  
 The Reid Park Neighborhood sees an opportunity for the new park to become a new outdoor learning environment for children of Reid Park and students at nearby schools like Reid Park Academy.



LOCATOR MAP SHOWING SECTION CUTS AND VIEWS

