



**Haw Creek Plan on a Page
Original 2017 plan revised in 2019**

1. Neighborhood Description – include items such as your neighborhood name, general character, relative location, and boundaries

Haw Creek is in a beautiful valley in East Asheville. Its boundaries are US Highway 70/Tunnel Road at I-240 ending at Groce Methodist Church on Tunnel Road.

With local business and restaurants and over 7,000 households, including affordable apartments, single family, townhomes and condos, Haw Creek has always been a very diverse neighborhood. While it is rural in character, it is within 15 minutes of the Asheville Mall, Blue Ridge Parkway, downtown Asheville, and main highways, which makes Haw Creek a desirable place to live. The community is served by the ART system buses which are a critical support for many residents. Our neighborhood supports the increase of bus service.

The community has excellent schools – Haw Creek Elementary School and Evergreen Community Charter School, plus the East Asheville Library, churches, parks, and the East Asheville Rec Club with tennis courts, swim team, and swimming pool.

It has an activist neighborhood association, with many members serving on committees for City Council and efforts to improve our community. The Association provides support to other neighborhoods with concerns or needs because of our members' experience working with the city, county, and state Legislators on many community issues.

2. Neighborhood History – include a brief history, describing when and how your neighborhood was developed, including the factors that have shaped it over time.

Haw Creek was settled in the early 1700s and named for the many Hawthorne trees that grew along the banks of area creeks.

A farming community in the early years, Haw Creek has two main entrances and very narrow roads throughout our valley. The lack of public right of way has resulted in a main concern for residents – limited sidewalks on its two main roads, New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek, or along many of our many side roads. Increasing housing density is leading to congestion and traffic. Our neighborhood opposes higher housing density.

The East Asheville Library and adjoining park is a cornerstone of life in Haw Creek and our neighbors are very supportive of the construction of the new, larger library.

3. Neighborhood Vision – Include the neighborhood’s expectations and goals for what it will become over the next 10-20 years

Haw Creek would like to use the placemaking process to become a cohesive neighborhood. This Plan on a Page was updated based on feedback from neighbors collected through a community survey and a vision planning meeting hosted in February 2019. The community survey was conducted between June 2018 and February 2019 with responses from 178 residents.

Residents of Haw Creek value our connections to one another, to the other organizations within our community, and to our natural environment. Our goals for increased connections include the expansion of sidewalks and greenways and adding additional community value to our parks.

Residents of Haw Creek value low-density housing, open natural areas, and neighborhood infrastructure improvements, including stormwater management and road improvements. Our goals include maintaining low-density housing, continuing stormwater management projects, and working with the police and fire departments to promote neighborhood safety.

Residents of Haw Creek value our location within the city of Asheville and our proximity to nature. We value the diversity of our neighbors, including age, family structure, socioeconomic, and housing type.

Collaborating with the City of Asheville, Haw Creek will focus on:

- maintaining current density levels
- increasing the walkability and bikeability of our roads with safer access to parks and greenways
- preserving open space, creating more parks and adding value to the existing parks
- concentrating on better stormwater management to prevent erosion of properties
- working towards safer roads for all forms of transportation

Haw Creek residents would like to work with the City of Asheville to revise the infill development approval process to allow additional neighborhood input.

4. Neighborhood Strengths – identify up to three things that you like about your neighborhood, including things that are working now and that you would not want to change

Haw Creek has an active Community Association which hosts several social events throughout the year, including a community yard sale, summer picnic, National Night Out in conjunction with

Asheville Police Department, ice cream social and education seminar, which are family friendly and allow the community to come together to strengthen our connections with one another.

Although close to downtown, Haw Creek has a very rural feel, one that the neighborhood wishes to maintain. The majority of Haw Creek is RS-4, which only has two entrances and exits out of the valley. The main roads in and out of the valley are what were here when it was a farming community; no easement was purchased, and the roads are narrow. Increased density would not be in the neighborhood's best interest. We are a quiet neighborhood; an important method for keeping this quiet and a rural environment is to maintain a low-density area per the survey.

Green spaces, including East Asheville Park, Haw Creek Park and Masters Park, provide places for the residents to connect with wildlife and fauna and flora. Also provides a place for neighbors to meet and walk pets.

5. Neighborhood Challenges – identify up to three issues or challenges facing your neighborhood that community members feel need further study or attention.

Infrastructure issues: The lack of walkability and bikeability throughout Haw Creek. Our roads are very narrow, winding and not well maintained with deep drop-offs into eroding ditches. Due to our rural feel, we are a neighborhood that enjoys being outdoors walking and biking. The lack of storm water management including open pipes dumping onto private property and eroded foot deep ditches.

Traffic safety on New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek Roads: Speeding and not following traffic laws are the biggest problems on our roads. Further, as additional houses are being built, our roads are becoming increasingly congested, particularly during peak hours including school drop-off and pick-up.

6. Neighborhood Responsibility – based on your answers to items #5 above, identify the items for which the neighborhood is responsible or has influence over and can take care of itself, vs. items for which the City responsible

The City of Asheville is primarily responsible for infrastructure such as roads, sewer, and services – fire, police, and sanitation services. Haw Creek residents have an active group of volunteers, which regularly do litter pick-up on New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek Roads as well as the side roads.