

### Logistics

- Sunday, March 12, 2023
- 1:00 pm start – until late afternoon
- *(Rain Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023)*
- Meet in the parking lot of the Fairmeadows Swim and Racquet Club, in the heart of SouthPark.
- Parking is available there
- 2800 Eastburn Road, Charlotte, NC 28210
- Wear something you won't mind getting a little dirty!

### Did You Know?

Urban Hike is held each year on the afternoon of "Selection Sunday," when the brackets are released for March Madness. The ACC basketball tournament concludes the night before, and MLB baseball season hasn't started yet. This date falls just after the conclusion of youth basketball season, and just before youth baseball season gets in full swing.

### Talking Points

- Truly a grass-roots movement, started about 5 years ago.
- Planning Committee: Drew Thrasher, David Herran and Jonathan Hemingway.
- An annual event, where the focus is:
  - Getting some exercise
  - Getting our kids out of the house and off their screens
  - Getting to know your neighbors better
  - Learning more about this city that we all live in
- Always on Selection Sunday in mid-March, welcoming the arrival of Spring. Not too cold, not too hot.
- Maximize the amount of time hiking off-road – this should be more of a "hike" and less of a "walk"
- Highlight lesser-known neighborhood connections
- Provide exposure to new greenways and trails developed by the City and the County
- Sprinkle in local history along the route
- Typically end up at a local watering hole for some post-hike fellowship!
- It's all about getting around without a car; we have used the light rail as part of previous hikes.
- We drive these streets every day, but when you get off the road and onto the trail, your perspective really changes. Not uncommon to hear "Where are we?" during an Urban Hike!

### Advice for Other Urban Hike Planners

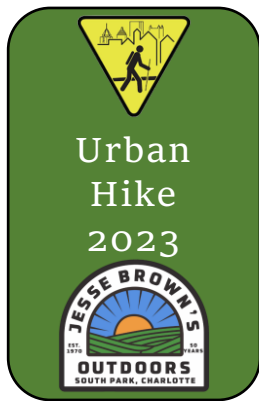
- Don't be afraid to postpone due to weather; a great weather day makes all the difference!
- Encourage participants to invite others – expand the circle.
- Make it fun for all ages
- Use tools like Google Maps to plan the route and measure distances
- Share 1 segment at a time to keep the route a surprise!
- Include a pit stop at the halfway point
- Be sure to end the hike with refreshments
- Take plenty of pictures – try apps like Relive to track your route.
- Pick a date and make it an annual tradition!

### Additional Details

- 2023 is the Year of the Trail in NC!
- NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- Carolina Thread Trail
- Cross-CLT Trail
- Little Sugar Creek Greenway
- Little Hope Creek Greenway
- Briar Creek Greenway
- New Backlot Trail
- The Loop in SouthPark

### Why am I involved in this?

- I love maps! I love scouring over maps to find new routes and new connections.
- My parents took me hiking every summer in the Blue Ridge mountains. I hope to pass this love of hiking and being outdoors along to my kids.
- I also like learning about local history.



### **Urban Hike 2023 – Points of Interest**

- This year's route starts in the heart of SouthPark, heads West towards Park Road, then turns to the North. From there, the route makes a loop around Park Road Shopping Center before heading back South, ultimately returning to SouthPark.
- The hike will highlight the newly completed Backlot Trail, which connects SouthPark to the cross-CLT trail.
- Also featured will be some of the brand new segments of the Little Sugar Creek greenway, currently being constructed by the City of Charlotte.
- Speaking of greenways, the route will also introduce hikers to the future routing of the new Little Hope Creek Greenway and Briar Creek Greenway extensions, where the County is planning to begin construction this Spring.
- Urban Hike 2023 will end up at Legion Brewery in SouthPark, which sits directly on the path of the new SouthPark Loop.
- Additional points of interest along the way include:
  - Tom Franklin (TF) Black homesite – Along with his wife Ida Graham Black, he was the owner of Springside Dairy, the largest local dairy and the only one to introduce the pasteurization and homogenization process. His cousin, Arthur Black, operated the adjacent White Oak Dairy.
  - Park Road Park provides the connection to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway and the cross-CLT Trail. Park Road Park opened in June 1973 and will be celebrating it's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer!
  - "The Confluence" – A soon-to-be hub and gathering spot for future Urban Hikers, this is the spot where both Briar Creek and Little Hope Creek flow into Little Sugar Creek.
  - "Drew Hearn Derby Downs" – This soapbox derby track was built in 1966 with private money on city-owned property and was used for an annual race where youngsters coast their unpowered, homemade cars down the steep hill. The track was named for Hearn, a Charlottean who won the national championship in 1947. Track was removed in 1993 to make way for a new Senior Center.

### **Quick Facts**

- 7.7 miles in total
- Approx. 4 hours
- Includes 4 current/future greenways/trails
- Includes 2 county parks
- Crosses 3 creeks and several additional tributaries

### **And Remember...**

- As always, final Urban Hike routing is subject to change based on weather conditions, water levels, and other environmental factors.
- Urban Hikers are welcome to jump on or off the trail at any time, as required by personal circumstances.
- While it is open to any and all interested parties, Urban Hike is a grass-roots initiative facilitated by individual private citizens and is in no way endorsed by the City of Charlotte or Mecklenburg County.