



## Chatham County Planning Board Agenda Notes

**Date: July 5, 2022**

**Agenda Item: VII-3**

**Attachment #: 8**

- Subdivision**
                 
  **Special Use Permit**
                 
  **Rezoning Request**  
                                 
  **Other:**

<b>Subject:</b>	Request by True Homes for a revision to the sketch plan approval and development schedule for The Parks at Meadowview consisting of 788 lots on 948.3 acres, located of Old Graham Rd (S.R. 1520) and NC 87.
<b>Action Requested:</b>	See Recommendation
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sketch plan application</li> <li>2. Summary of the request including changes (The Parks at Meadowview Sketch Plan Modification – June 2022)</li> <li>3. The Parks at Meadowview revised sketch plan dated June 10, 2022</li> <li>4. Currently approved sketch plan dated April 10, 2006</li> <li>5. Traffic Impact Analysis prepared by Ramey Kemp Associates dated May 2022</li> <li>6. Wetland delineation and stream evaluation prepared by Soil &amp; Environmental Consultants, PA dated September 27, 2021</li> <li>7. NC Dept. of Environmental Quality Permit No. WQ0022870 Reclaimed Water Permit dated April 18, 2019</li> <li>8. Water and Sewer Exhibits dated June 20, 2022</li> </ol>

**Introduction & Background:**  
 The sketch plan for the “Meadowview” was originally approved on May 16, 2005 as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) consisting of 715 lots on 793 acres. On March 20, 2006 the PUD sketch plan was amended to reduce the number of lots from 715 to 600, to have all roadways be private, redesign the lot layout, and change the name to “The Parks at Meadowview”. On May 15, 2006 the PUD sketch plan was revised to add approximately 155 acres and increase the number of dwelling units to 739. The last subdivision activity in the development was February 2014 when the Board of Commissioners approved one lot for a wastewater pump station.

The Parks as Meadowview is approved as PUD under the pre-2008 Subdivision Regulations and there is no special use permit. PUDs require a special use permit;

however, zoning was not adopted in this area until November 2007. If this request is approved the PUD will remain vested under the pre-2008 Subdivision Regulations.

**Discussion & Analysis:**

Zoning District: R1

Watershed District: WS-IV Protected Area in the Jordan Lake drainage

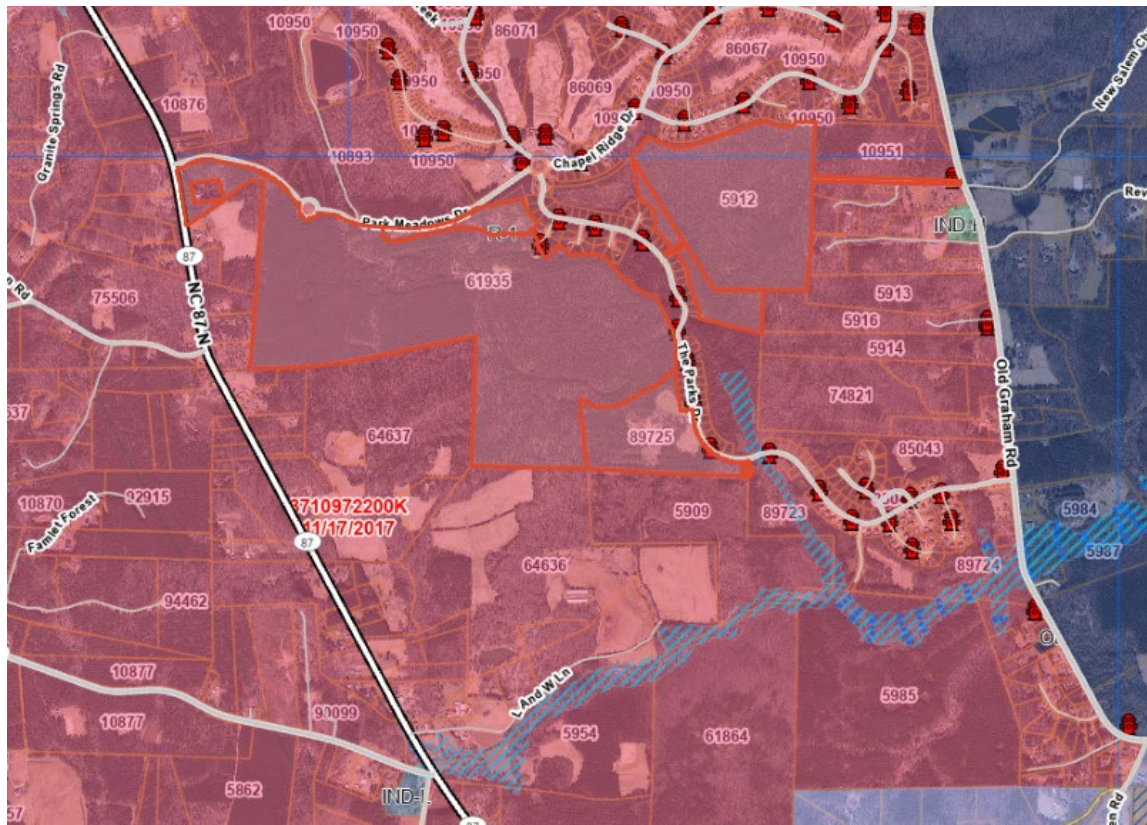
Water source: Aqua NC

Sanitary Sewer source: Aqua NC

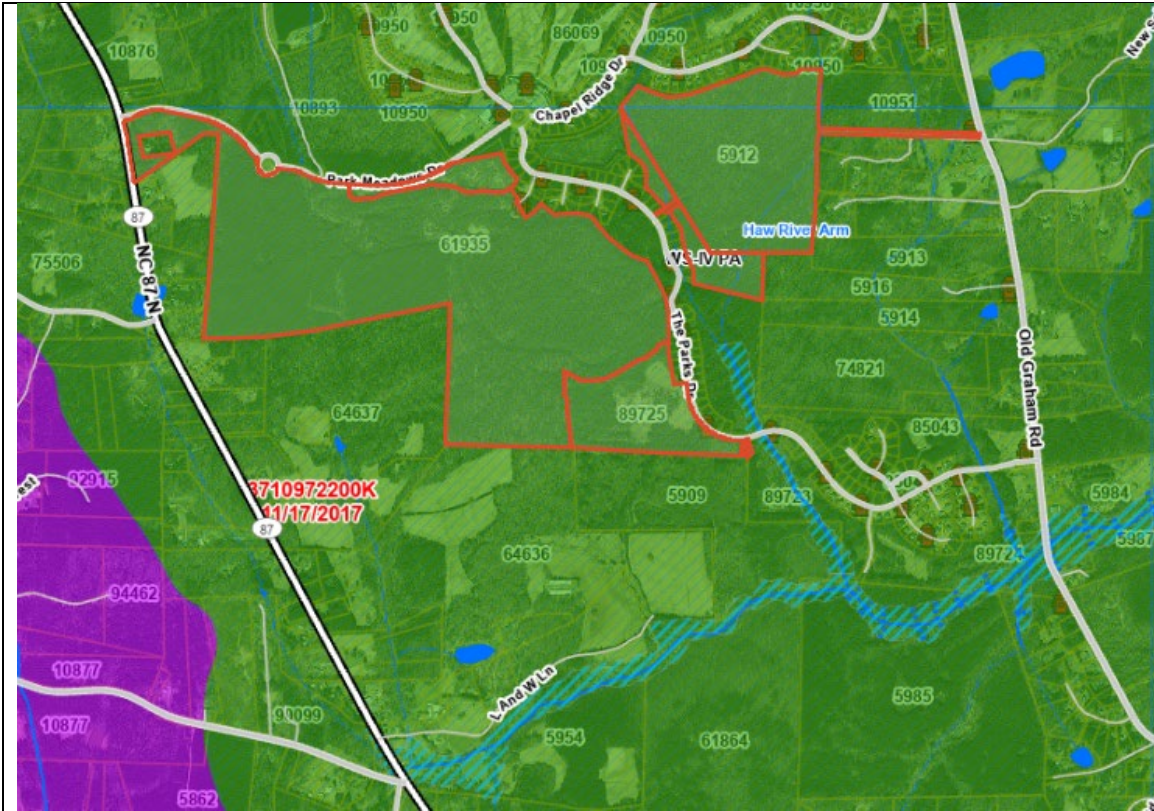
Total project area: 948.3 acres

Acres by phase: Ph. 1 = 255 acres, Phs. 2-4 = 538.1 acres, Ph. 5 = 155.4 acres.

Special Flood Hazard Area: approximately 38.8 acres



Map showing current zoning (R1, Residential – Note: zoning was adopted in this area after the sketch plan for The Parks at Meadowview was approved)



Map showing the watershed district (WS-IV PA – Jordan Drainage)

The request before the board is a revision to the sketch plan approval for Phases 2-4 only and include:

- Increasing the number of dwelling units from 739 to 788 dwelling units (a 49-unit increase). Phase 2-4 will increase from 404 to 453 dwelling units.
- Revising the development footprint to a smaller area.
- Revising the development schedule to December 31, 2023 for preliminary plat submittal of Phase 2 and submittal of final plats for phases 2 through 4 by December 31, 2028.

Phase 1 was previously platted and the county holds two financial guarantees to cover the completion of improvements in those phases. Phase 5 is held by a separate entity and no changes are proposed for that phase. As noted in the introduction, the request is being submitted as an amendment to the current approval in order for the project to remain vested under the pre-2008 Subdivision Regulations. At the time this development was approved this area was unzoned so a conditional/special use permit was not required.

### **Subdivision Layout Reconfiguration**

The request includes a reconfiguration of the remaining lots from the current approval and increase in the number of lots by 49 dwelling units. The currently approved layout (see attachment #4) shows 404 dwelling units in phases 2 through 4 with those phases spanning both sides of The Parks Drive. There is one additional road connection to Park Meadows Drive which is a publicly dedicated road. Parks Meadow Drive connects to NC 87 and the roundabout connecting Chapel Ridge and The Parks at Meadowview. Parks

Meadow Drive terminates at the roundabout and all the roads within Chapel Ridge are privately maintained. The proposed amendment increases the dwelling unit count but reduces the development footprint. All the lots for phases 2 – 4 are proposed to be located west of The Parks Drive and include a mix of single-family homes and townhomes (see attachment #3).

Attachment #2 is a narrative provided by the applicant and includes a breakdown of the dwelling unit calculation. As previously noted, The Parks at Meadowview is approved as a PUD under the pre-2008 Subdivision Regulations. Section 8.3 of the regulations outline the requirements for a PUD and includes that a minimum of 15% of the development be set aside as open space. The total acreage for The Parks at Meadowview is 948.3 acres with 111.2 acres in right-of-way, floodplain, streams and wetlands resulting in a net of 837.1 acres. The maximum number of dwelling units for a PUD under this scenario is 911.6 dwelling units and the request is to increase the count to 788 dwelling units.

### **Development Schedule Extension**

The request includes an extension to the development schedule to include submittal of the preliminary plat for phase 2 by December 31, 2023 and submittal of all final plats for phases 2-4 by December 31, 2028. The current development schedule would have expired on December 31, 2021 but falls under a third permit extension under covid legislation adopted by the Legislature. House Bill 196 / Senate Bill 172 (now Session Law 2021-3) pushes the expiration of qualifying development approvals out to 150 days from the date the executive order establishing the COVID-related state of emergency is rescinded. More information about permit extensions under covid related legislation is found here - <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2020/10/extension-extended-general-assembly-expands-development-permit-extension/> . Section 8.1 of the per-2008 Subdivision Regulations includes that “the time limit on the validity of sketch and preliminary approval may be extended by the Board of Commissioners for Planned Unit Developments.”

### **Open Space**

The PUD standards include that a minimum of 15% of the development be set aside as open space. This request increases the open space from 583 to 603 acres, a total of 63% of the development which exceeds the minimum requirement.

### **Sedimentation & Erosion Control and Stormwater Standards**

Each phase of the development is subject to the sedimentation and erosion control standards in effect when each phase is permitted for construction. The county did not have a stormwater ordinance in effect when The Parks at Meadowview was originally approved, and this would continue to apply if this request is approved. However, the applicant has committed to “provide wet ponds (meeting the current Chatham County stormwater standards) for any development associated with Phases 2-4 and the central amenity.” It is not clear if county staff will have enforcement authority under the currently adopted stormwater ordinance since this a voluntary commitment by the developer.

**Riparian Buffers**

The current approval for The Parks at Meadowview is subject to the pre-2008 riparian buffer standards which will still be in effect if this request is approved. However, the applicant has committed to meeting the current riparian buffer standards, in addition to the pre-2008 standard, whichever is greater. Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA has delineated the water features for this project using the currently adopted riparian buffer standards and those calls are under review by Watershed Protection staff (see attachment #6). Like the stormwater commitment, it is not clear if county staff will have enforcement authority under the currently adopted riparian buffer standards since this a voluntary commitment by the developer

**Traffic and Roads**

The Parks at Meadowview was approved with private roads and some of those were constructed as part of Phase 1 and the county holds financial guarantees for their final construction. Additionally, the homeowners association has activated the gates on The Parks Drive. The new site plan and application proposes that the roads within phases 2-4 be public and connect to Parks Meadow Drive which is also public. The internal connection to The Parks Drive which is shown on the current site plan will be removed and there will be no interconnection between phase 1 and phases 2-4. A shared amenity is proposed that will provide access to residents who live in phases with both public and private roads.

The application includes a Traffic Impact Analysis prepared by Ramey Kemp Associates (see attachment #5). The report includes in Section 4, Site Trip Generation and Distribution, that phases 2-4 “will generate approximately 3,943 total site trips on the roadway network during a typical 24-hour weekday period. Of the daily volume, it is anticipated that 294 trips (72 entering and 219 exiting) will occur during the weekday AM peak hour and 397 trips (250 entering and 147 exiting) will occur during the weekday PM peak hour.” The trip distribution is anticipated to be “10% to/from the north via Old Graham Road, 5% to/from the north via NC 87, 30% to/from the south via Old Graham Road, and 55% to/from the south via NC 87.”

**Additional Comments**

At the time these notes were written, planning staff had received numerous written comments from residents of Chapel Ridge with concerns primarily about traffic pattern changes between the currently approved plan and the new proposal. Comments focused on the disconnection between phase 2-4 and the gated section of The Parks at Meadowview, two access points on Parks Meadow Drive, and increased traffic on the privately maintained Chapel Ridge Drive. It is possible that Chapel Ridge Drive could also be gated resulting in all of the traffic from phases 2-4 having to access NC 87.

**Recommendation:**

It is planning staff opinion the proposed layout meets the requirements of the pre-2008 Subdivision Regulations. Planning staff does not provide an opinion on the request to extend the development schedule because there are no criteria for evaluation.