

I.B.SCHOOL WOODS & TOWN REC CENTER PLAN

The new Center offers many possibilities. In one early plan, however, it was proposed to cut down most of the School Woods east of the playing field to make a drive-through parking lot.

*It's important to consider what losses to both Town and School the destruction of the Woods would cause, and how this damage could be avoided.*

Why the School Woods are valuable

- Tall tulip poplars, walnuts, sweet gums—some 8-10 feet circumference—part of Town's vanishing tree canopy
- Outdoor classroom for School biology classes
- Deer, turtles, owls, varied wildlife
- Part of green stream-watershed corridor reaching from Lorimer Rd. through Elementary School preserve to Kincaid greenway
- Trails from Hillside Rd., Lorimer Rd., & Cathey St. used daily by IB & Elementary School students and townspeople, walking and biking.

Why drive-through parking lot would be destructive

- Small lot, offering only a few parking spaces, would require destruction of almost all School-property woods
- Steeply sloping land would necessitate massive retaining walls and eroding runoff
- Drain-pool required by runoff would be sometimes dry, sometimes stagnant swamp
- Green wildlife corridor interrupted; stream watershed compromised
- Walking paths sacrificed for hard-surface road
- Woods could never be restored (Charlotte has spent millions trying to resurrect Sugar Creek greenway)

Should Hillside-Cathey path be replaced by road

Advantage

Connective for fire trucks, possibly for commuters, busses

Disadvantage

Safety and "wholeness" of School campus interrupted by traffic

Walkers & bikers less safe

Trees cut, erosion increased

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Planning meetings for Rec Center and School Woods:

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|-----------------|------------|---|
| Weds. Sept. 24  | 6 pm       | Site tour at IB Middle School   |
|                 | 7 pm       | Initial planning introduction at Davidson Town Hall                   |
| Thurs. Sept. 25 | 10 am-5 pm | Charrette at Town Hall (citizens invited to draw plans, submit ideas) |
|                 | 7 pm       | Pin-up presentation of plans at Town Hall                             |

--Bob Cumming