

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

Haw Creek is located 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 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 very desirable place to live. The community has excellent schools – Haw Creek Elementary School and Evergreen Charter School, plus churches, 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, such as working to get a new library. 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 – no sidewalks on its two main roads, New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek, or along our many side roads.

### **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. Collaborating with the City of Asheville Haw Creek would focus on:

- development of increased walkability and bikeability with safer access to parks and greenways
- preservation of open space, creating more parks and start community gardens to maintain our rural characterists
- concentration on better storm water management to prevent erosion of properties
- a new and/or renovated East Asheville Library and community center
- safer roads

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, 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.

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, 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: 1) The lack of walkability and bikeability throughout Haw Creek. Our roads are very narrow, winding and not well maintained with deep drop-offs into erodes ditches. Due to our rural feel, we are a neighborhood that enjoys being outdoors walking, biking etc. 2) The lack of storm water management. Open pipes dumping onto private property are not storm water management, or having open, eroded foot deep ditches.

Inadequate library/community center: The East Asheville Library is in dire need of replacing; unfortunately this matter has been delayed years by County Commission. East Asheville no longer has a community center; Parks and Recreation leased the space to LEAF for five years. Our neighborhoods now must pay to have events and meetings.

Traffic control on New Haw Creek and Old Haw Creek Roads: Speeding is the number one problem on our roads. Next to that are cars not stopping at stop signs, especially Keasler Road onto Old Haw Creek Road and Cisco Road onto Old Haw Creek Road.

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.

**7 & 8 Alignment with Council & Asheville City Development Plan 2025. Goals describe how the issues facing the neighborhood align with the goals identified in the city Councils Strategic Operating Plan and corresponds to the major theses (such as affordable housing, land use, transportation, air and water quality and economic development) of the Asheville City Development Plan 2025 Comprehensive Plan.**

The Haw Creek team who drafted the Plan on a Page keeping in mind Asheville City Council's 2036 Vision and Asheville Development Plan 2025 goals in process. Haw Creek's vision, strengths and challenges are aligned with the city's area of focus. We have a diverse community, a very livable, rural community, affordable housing, commercial businesses, which are supporters of the Haw Creek community and a Community Association that engaged with the community.

Asheville City Council's 2036 Vision

<http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Departments/CommunityRelations/StrategicOperatingPlan.aspx>

Asheville City Development Plan 2025 Goals

<http://www.ashevillenc.gov/portals/0/city-documents/Planning/introduction.pdf>