

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for Requested Stream Name “Brooklyn Creek”

PRESENTER: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Name that Creek Information
2. Related News Article
3. Resolution of Support

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Riverlink and the City of Hendersonville are working with the USGS to name an unnamed stream in the Green Meadows community located off 7Ave. Riverlink’s “Name that Creek” is an initiative in which they work with communities to select an official name for unnamed creeks. Riverlink has been working with local residents to name an unnamed stream that flows through Sullivan Park into Mud Creek. The name selected and voted on by residents is Brooklyn Creek.

Before the name can be approved by the USGS Board of Geographical Names (USGS-BGN), both the City of Hendersonville and Henderson County are requested to submit a resolution of support. Attached for the Board’s review is information about the process conducted by Riverlink, including the location of the stream, and an article on the history of the Brooklyn neighborhood.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the resolution of support to name the stream Brooklyn Creek.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Board adopt the attached resolution in support of the requested stream name Brooklyn Creek and request forward the resolution to the USGS-BGN.



Name that Creek- Hendersonville, NC

August 1, 2022

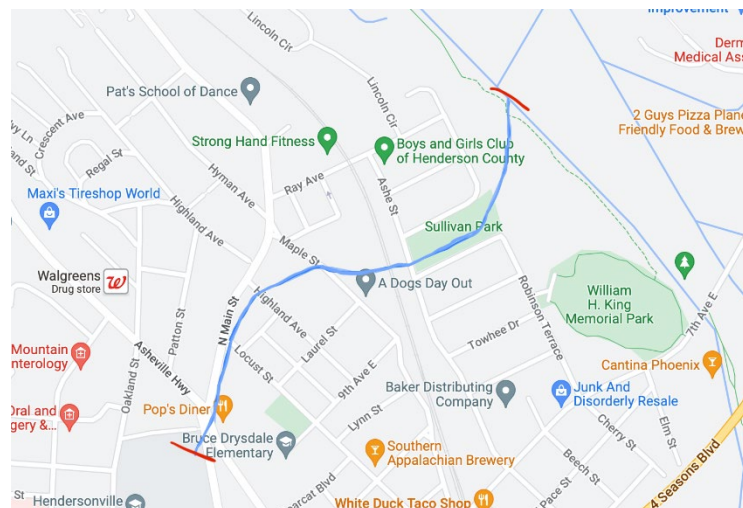
RiverLink is a non-profit organization focused on the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River watershed. Name that Creek is a RiverLink initiative in which communities submit name suggestions for unnamed creeks and vote for an official name. The goal of the program is foster connection and a sense of shared stewardship of our local waterways.

In July 2022, RiverLink staff worked with Hendersonville residents to select the name 'Brooklyn Creek' for an unnamed stream that flows through Sullivan Park and into Mud Creek. Once a name is chosen by residents' popular vote, the next step is to to obtain formal approval by a local government. In this case, that is the City of Hendersonville City Council. RiverLink then submits an application to the USGS Board of Geographical Names (USGS-BN). If approved by the USGS-BGN, the creek name will appear on official USGS maps.

See below for details on the Name that Creek campaign.

RiverLink staff distributed fliers around neighborhoods adjacent to the stream asking for proposed names. Local residents submitted two names: Brooklyn Creek and Cold Springs Creek. Then, a poll was created where residents could vote for their favorite name online (Google Doc), by mail, or phone. Residents were notified about the poll via email and fliers were posted around the neighborhoods and downtown Hendersonville businesses. The winning name was Brooklyn Creek with 66.7% of the vote.

Figure 1. Location of unnamed stream in dark blue.



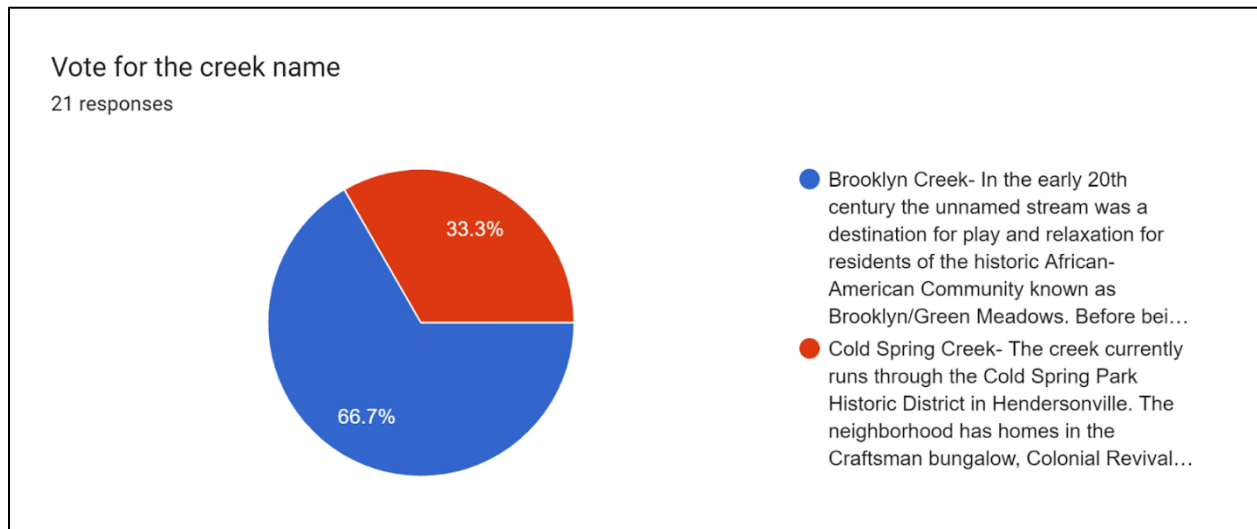
RIVERLINK

Names Suggested by Residents

1) Brooklyn Creek- In the early 20th century the unnamed stream was a destination for play and relaxation for residents of the historic African-American community known as Brooklyn. Before being displaced by Urban Renewal in the 1970's and relocated to Green Meadows, there was a thriving connected community along the stream. By naming the stream Brooklyn Creek, the history of a displaced community and their connection to the waterway can be honored and shared.

2) Cold Spring Creek- The creek currently runs through the Cold Spring Park Historic District in Hendersonville. The neighborhood has homes in the Craftsman bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Ranch styles dating from 1910 through 1953, all of which were built within the historically platted Cold Spring Park subdivision. The area has retained much of the architectural integrity and the name aims to complement this designation.

Figure 2. Poll results.



For more info on the history of the Brooklyn neighborhood, see this Laurel of Asheville [article](#).

THE LAUREL OF ASHEVILLE

THE ARTS AND CULTURE OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS

Arts	Lifestyle	Outdoors	Communities	Podcasts	Events ▾	Archives ▾	Subscribe	Support	
About ▾									Q

Communities • Heritage/History

History Feature: Hendersonville Community Lives in Memories of Its Residents

2 years ago • 1 Comment



Diane Caldwell was raised in an invisible town. As a young girl, she ate hot dogs cooked by Mrs. Stanfield and skinned her knees in the dust bowl by the railroad tracks. Her life in Brooklyn, a black community once spanning the upper side of Seventh Avenue to Ashe Street in Hendersonville, was quite real. And yet county annals suggest otherwise.

“You just have to tell the stories and move forward,” Caldwell says, noting the lack of formal records. Those that do exist are sparse. A record from 1900 frames the neighborhood as “a community of black people living just east of the railroad tracks.”

Personal narratives reveal a richer story. Brooklyn took root in the late 1800s as emancipated slaves sought work unloading boxcars. They settled in shotgun-style houses with tin roofs along a small, clear brook. It is likely that Brooklyn owes its name to this integral water source and popular swimming hole.

In the summer, Caldwell remembers sleeping with the screen door wide open and borrowing sugar from neighbors. “Whatever the need was, people didn’t mind giving,” Caldwell says. “It was safe back then.”

She walked miles to the segregated Ninth Avenue School, socialized at a juke joint called the Homer Davis Café and gathered with family over Coca-Cola and buttery crackers. The community was by no means rich—few homes had indoor toilets—but folks made do by cutting hair



But life changed in the 1960s. Following the federal policy of urban renewal, Hendersonville offered Brooklyn residents a meager stipend to move elsewhere. Homes were demolished to make way for Green Meadows, an affordable housing development. Though some families moved back, the spirit of Brooklyn had already faded. Today, only personal accounts remain.

“Maybe the most denigrating part of African-American history is the lost, or lack of, documentation,” reads a booklet advertising a Brooklyn and Green Meadows reunion in 2007.

Pack Memorial Library is attempting to remedy this problem. Established in early 2019 and expected to continue through 2025, the Black Asheville History Project seeks to ensure that at least 25 percent of the North Carolina Room’s collections catalogue is reflective of WNC’s African-American communities.

“The disparities in our collection are even more apparent now as more and more attention is turned toward black history,” says Katherine Calhoun Cutshall, collections manager for the North Carolina Room, adding that recent events are leading people to question what “watershed moments in black history they may not know.”

Namely, few of us know about the black communities that have been lost to urban renewal and redlining, and subsequently bleached from public record. “We must preserve what we can,” says Caldwell. “It comes down to instilling the values of Brooklyn. Values made it a community.”

To learn more, visit PackLibraryNCRoom.com



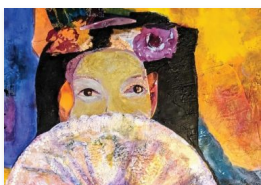
You may also like



Jim McDowell Tells the Stories of His Black Ancestors, One Face Jug at a Time
7 days ago • 116 Views



Unveiling of the Newest Piece in Madison County’s Manufacturing Art Park
1 week ago • 361 Views



Leicester Studios Open for Tours August 20-21
2 weeks ago • 62 Views



Heart of Brevard Hosts Art is in the Air Festival September 13-18
2 weeks ago • 113 Views

1 Comment



Nitanya G. Andrews

August 22, 2020 at 11:13 am

I was inspired and totally agree. My great grandfather, Rev. John W. Neill was a principal of Sixth Avenue School in Hendersonville, N.C. He was a graduate of Howard University in 1897. I am working hard to develop the history of this area as it is a huge part of my ancestry.

Reply

Leave a Comment

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

Post Comment

Latest News & Updates

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • www.hendersoncountync.gov

William G. Lapsley
Chairman
Rebecca K. McCall
Vice-Chairman



J. Michael Edney
Daniel J. Andreotta
David H. Hill

RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF BROOKLYN CREEK NAME

- WHEREAS**, “Name that Creek” is a Riverlink initiative in which communities submit name suggestions for unnamed creeks and vote for an official name; and
- WHEREAS**, the goal of the “Name that Creek” program is to foster connection and a sense of shared stewardship for local waterways; and
- WHEREAS**, Riverlink and the City of Hendersonville worked with residents to select a name for an unnamed stream that flows through Sullivan Park into Mud Creek; and
- WHEREAS**, local residents submitted two names, Brooklyn Creek and Cold Springs Creek, and voted via an online poll, by mail, or by phone; and
- WHEREAS** the winning name was Brooklyn Creek with a 66.7% vote; and
- WHEREAS** the name represents residents of the historic African American community know as Brooklyn that was a thriving community along the stream in the early 20th century; and
- WHEREAS**, by naming the stream Brooklyn Creek, the history of a displaced community and their connection to the waterway can be honored and shared; and
- WHEREAS**, once approved by the United States Geological Survey Board of Geographical Names (USGS-BGN), the creek name will appear on official USGS maps and all related county maps.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners supports the selected name of Brooklyn Creek for an unnamed stream through Sullivan Park; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Henderson County Resolution of Support be forwarded to the USGS-BGN, Riverlink and the City of Hendersonville.
- ADOPTED**, this the 6th day of September 2022.

WILLIAM LAPSLEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

DENISA LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD