

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLANNING AREA

Purpose

County officials, local organizations, and the community at large developed the Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan (hereinafter “Comprehensive Plan”). The Henderson County Board of Commissioners adopted the Comprehensive Plan on July 6, 2004. A principal recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan is the detailed study of individual communities within the County. The order these community planning areas would be studied was determined based on anticipated growth and relation to the Growth Management Strategy (established by the Comprehensive Plan). The Comprehensive Plan recommends undertaking the Edneyville Community Plan as one of the initial plans due to the area’s marked growth in recent years.

The Edneyville Community Plan is a community-specific comprehensive plan that outlines future goals related to Land Use and Development, Community Character and Design, Natural and Cultural Resources, Agriculture, Housing, Community Facilities and Public Services, Transportation, and Economic Development.

Process

The plan development process began with the adoption of the Edneyville Community Plan Advisory Committee Charter by the Board of Commissioners on February 20, 2008. On April 7, 2008, the Board of Commissioners appointed the Committee. The Committee consisted of nine (9) community residents (including one (1) liaison from the Henderson County Planning Board) and an ex-officio member representing the City of Hendersonville. The Committee’s purposes were to advise the Board of Commissioners by recommending policies specific to the Planning Area. The Committee met for the first time on May 6, 2008.

The Committee gathered public input through two (2) public input sessions and an online survey. The County held the initial public input session on May 20, 2008 at Edneyville Elementary School. Approximately 26 community residents participated in the meeting by discussing the strengths of, concerns for, and 15-year vision for the community. To solicit additional input the County also provided an online survey available from May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008. Complete survey results are provided in the document, *Edneyville Community Plan Supplemental Materials*, on file at the Henderson County Planning Department.

The Committee held 17 successive meetings following the initial public input session during which the Committee reviewed each Plan element. The Committee formed goals and objectives for the elements based on input from the public, and information from County staff and relevant experts.

The County held a second public input session on October 27, 2009 to allow residents to comment on the Plan. The Committee then held its final meeting to review the public input and finalize the Plan. The Committee presented the Plan to the Planning Board at a joint meeting held December 17 2009. With Planning Board support, the Committee presented the Plan to the Board of Commissioners on March 1, 2010. The Board of Commissioners held a workshop to discuss the Plan on May 11, 2010. The Board of Commissioners adopted the Edneyville Community Plan May 11, 2010.

Planning Area Boundary

The Planning Area is located in the eastern portion of Henderson County and includes just over 29,300 acres of land (12.21% of the County acreage and 14.32% of the County’s jurisdictional acreage). The

Planning Area's northern boundary follows Bank Mountain ridge, lying south of Bearwallow and Little Bearwallow Mountains. The eastern boundary follows Henderson County's border with Rutherford and Polk Counties. The southern boundary falls between Sugarloaf Road and US Highway 64 East. The City of Hendersonville and its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) define the southwestern boundary. Locust Grove Road generally provides the western boundary (See Map 1, Planning Area Boundary (p. 61)).

Historical Overview, Community Beginnings

The Edneyville and Fruitland communities' post-American Revolution history marks the earliest colonial settlement of Henderson County. Following his loss at the Battle at Kings Mountain in October 1780, Mr. William Mills, then a British loyalist (Tory), hid from the American Revolutionaries in the eastern portion of Henderson County. Mills thereafter became an American Revolutionary Officer. As an officer, Mills later received a land grant for a large tract in what is now northeastern Henderson County and which falls within the Planning Area.

Mills and his family, along with other colonialists, would struggle to lay the foundation for permanent colonial settlement on lands close to the Cherokee. In November of 1785, the State of North Carolina and the Cherokee entered into an agreement known as the Hopewell Treaty. The treaty attempted to settle the controversy on the western boundary of European settlement. The Hopewell Treaty border passed through what are today the communities of Flat Rock, Dana, and Fruitland. The Cherokee did challenge the land holdings of the early settlers of these communities, including Mills.

Fruitland first received its name in the late 1780's. In 1787, Mills planted fruit trees on his tract, naming his land and the surrounding area "Fruitland". The United States government provided official recognition of the Fruitland placename when, on May 31, 1883, it established the Fruitland post office with David Merrell as Postmaster. Mills also named other Planning Area landmarks including: Bearwallow Mountain, Ball Top, Point Lookout, and Sugarloaf Mountain.

Edneyville received its name from settlers from the eastern part of the North Carolina. The Edney family left England in 1692 to settle in Pasquotank County, NC. Descendants of these original colonial settlers included brothers Samuel and Asa Edney born in the 1760's. The Edney brothers moved to Henderson County from Pasquotank County between 1790 and 1792, arriving shortly after William Mills. Samuel and Asa married two (2) of William Mills five (5) daughters, Asa marrying Sarah, and Samuel marrying Eleanor. Samuel and Eleanor Edney's first son was born in the area in November 25, 1794. Asa and Sarah Edney settled on lands adjacent to Clear Creek.

Edneyville, as a placename, was officially recognized by the United States government in 1828 when Samuel Edney established a private post office for the area. United States Postal Service archives show, "Edneyville, Samuel Edney appointed 15 April 1828". The establishment of this Post Office is significant because it was possibly the only arrangement between an individual and the government in United States history. The establishment of the Edneyville Post Office marked the earliest record applying the name Edneyville to the area. Samuel Edney operated the post office at no government expense until a regular office was established in 1842, at which time his son James Edney was appointed Postmaster to the branch (January 21, 1842).

The communities of Edneyville and Fruitland were among the earliest in Henderson County, being officially recognized by the United States government for over 180 years and 125 years respectively. In perspective, the City of Hendersonville was established as the County Seat and first official town in Henderson County in 1847 (approximately 162 years ago).