



The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

historicwestend.org

November 2015

West End's Troubled Spring Park

Story and photos by M. Lively

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT MEETING

December 8

West End Association

6:00PM

West End Room

Central YMCA

To discuss Hanes Park Improvement Plans and Proposed RJR Stadium.

NOTE: regular WEA meetings for Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 have been CANCELLED

November 11

Historic resources

Commission Certificate

of Appropriateness

Application Submittal

Deadline 5:00PM

December 2

Historic Resources

Commission Meeting

4:00 PM

Bryce A. Stuart

Municipal Building

Room 530

Dec. 3 - 21

Sawtooth School for Visual Arts Deck The Halls fundraiser

Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, 251 N. Spruce St.

West End Neighborhood Blue Recycling Bins

Mondays

Nov. 23rd

Dec. 7th, 21st

Considering Renovations?

Consult the West End Historic Overlay District Design Review Guidelines FIRST.

http://historicwestend.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/WE_Guidelines_2006.pdf

You may have noticed the "Road Closed" signs on West End Blvd. as you drive down Broad Street away from downtown Winston-Salem toward Thurman St. and Reynolda Rd. Along that route, you will pass Spring Park, one of the small city parks in the West End Historic Overlay District. The park is tucked in between Broad Street and a short segment of West End Blvd. that curves around below Summit St. West End Blvd. is open only to local traffic, inconveniencing West Enders, because a major storm water drainage problem is threatening to cause the street to collapse. This long standing drainage problem begins on private property high above the park and has gotten worse since February 2015, exacerbating the much older problems within the park. The good news is that repair of this urgent storm sewer problem may provide the needed catalyst to stimulate serious efforts to repair and restore this small, quiet park so it can be used once again.



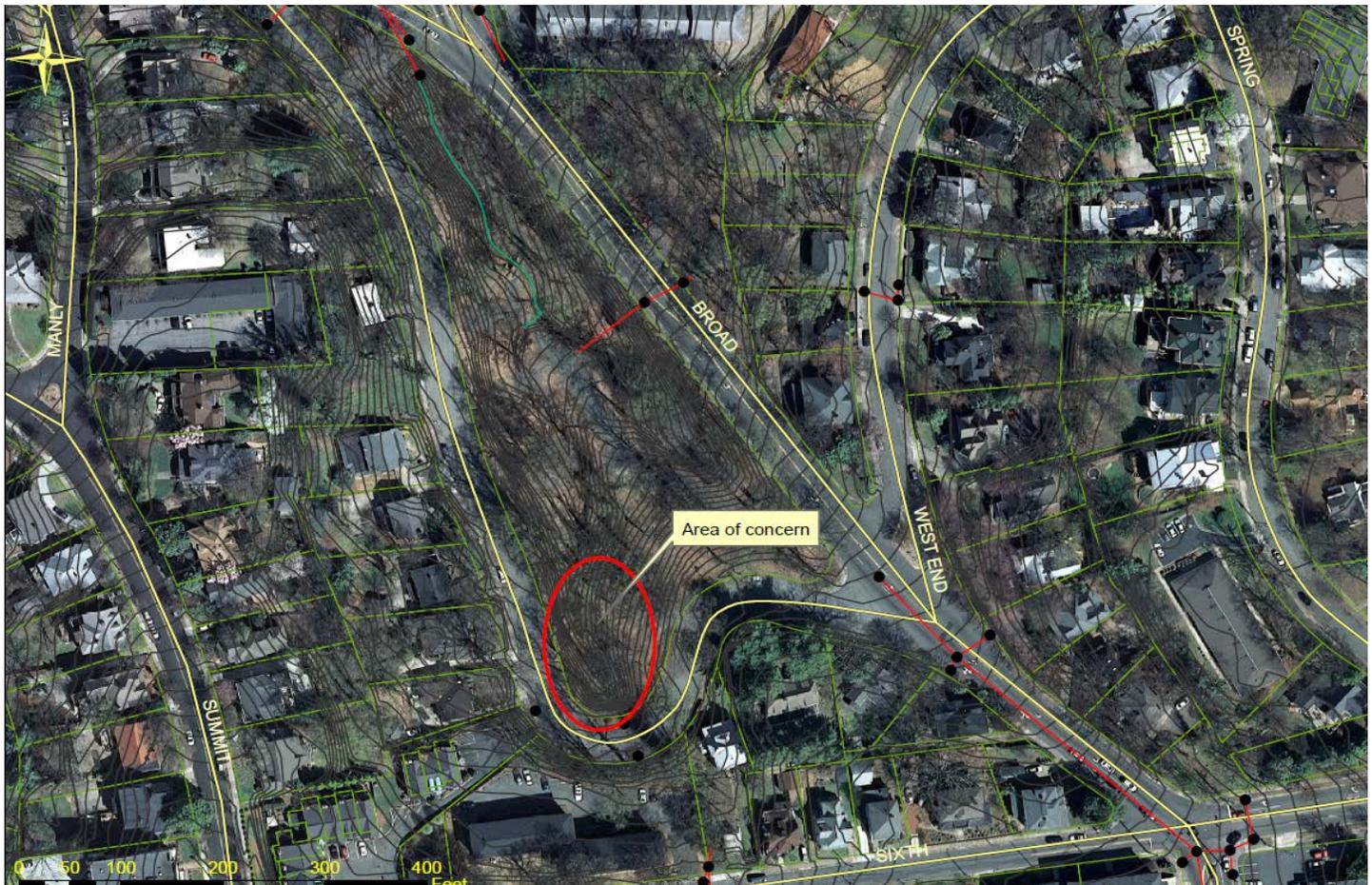
There are many examples of deferred maintenance in Spring Park. It has steep slopes that have contributed to erosion problems along the banks of two small creeks that pass through it. One of two bridges that cross a creek has been missing for more than



five years. Erosion has damaged the banks of the steep slopes (photo, left) and some large trees have fallen because of failed root systems. Recent efforts to control vegetation along the creek banks with herbicides may have contributed to additional erosion and loss of top soil. (continued next page)



Troubled Spring Park (from pg. 1)



Spring Park Stabilization Project, Area of Concern

Source: City of Winston-Salem, Department of Stormwater/Erosion Control, October 2015

Neighbors, including Ralph Kennedy and Richard Atwood whose homes face the park across the segment of West End Blvd. above the park, have expressed their concerns repeatedly to the city and to the West End Association about the sad state of the park for many months. Although the city bond referendums passed in November 2014 do not include funds for improvements in Spring Park, the city has other sources of funding that could be used once the adjacent drainage problems have been corrected.

In an October 29 response to questions from Council member MacIntosh, the head of the Winston-Salem Storm Water division answered that "the temporary fix [for the storm water runoff] should be complete in two weeks. The permanent fix will require full design drawings, temporary and permanent easements through the apartment complex and state and federal permits and will need to go through the formal bidding process, so we are looking at spring/summer of next year [2016] for construction (assuming we can get contracts signed and executed ASAP)."

Once the storm drainage is properly corrected, West End neighbors are hopeful that the city will turn its attention to Spring Park. The long missing bridge needs to be replaced so visitors to the park can actually walk through the park. General landscaping maintenance and erosion control need continued effort. With the improvements in nearby Hoots Mill area and the apartments being built by the renovated Chatam Mill project, there will be more residents within easy walking distance of Spring Park. **The time is right for the city to give higher priority to this neglected part of West End and finally take the necessary steps to correct the outstanding problems in troubled Spring Park.**



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The Bonds at Work in our Neighborhood



by Cyndy Lively

In August of 2010, the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation completed a pedestrian design study for Cloverdale Avenue. The study area included parts of Oakwood Drive, Miller Street, and Hawthorne Road, as well as Cloverdale Avenue. The purpose of the study was "to enhance the pedestrian and bicycling environment and to minimize the negative effects that vehicular traffic has on pedestrian movements."



Poorly marked crosswalk in front of Brunson Elem. School

Segment Six of the study involved deficiencies identified and improvements recommended for the intersection of Cloverdale Avenue and Hawthorne Road and the stretch of Hawthorne Road from First Street to Glade Street. Concerns included pedestrian movements at the Cloverdale/Hawthorne intersection and student access along both sides of Hawthorne Road, pedestrian and bicycle access to Brunson Elementary School, and traffic into and out of the school parking lot. The absence of School Zone signage and signals was another concern.

Recommendations included narrowing Hawthorne Road from both sides to provide the minimum pavement width required for two traffic lanes plus bicycle lanes and restriping the north bound approach to create an exclusive right turn lane into the school parking lot. The Cloverdale/Hawthorne intersection would be reconstructed to eliminate excess pavement and form a 90 degree turn from Hawthorne Road, thereby improving pedestrian safety. A raised pedestrian crosswalk with high visibility markings was proposed for the school entrance with consideration for upgraded signage. The northbound and southbound approaches to Glade Street would be widened to provide three lanes plus exclusive bike lanes in each direction, and the planting beds reconstructed to slow the free-flow of traffic onto Glade Street.

Part of the bond money approved in 2014 was designated for street and sidewalk upgrades. All of these planned changes will greatly improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Hawthorne Road and at Brunson Elementary School. As other segments of the Cloverdale Plan are completed, we can look forward to seeing these recommendations implemented.



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Planning to Repair or Renovate your Home?

Planning to Repair or Renovate? You may be eligible for a state tax credit. Beginning January 1, 2016, state tax credits for the rehabilitation of qualifying historic residential properties (non-income producing) have been significantly reduced – but not lost. As under the current law, the property must be listed in the National Historic Register or be a contributing property in a NR listed Historic District. The total credit has been reduced from 30% to 15% of eligible expenses, but the project threshold has been reduced from \$25,000 to \$10,000, allowing homeowners to claim credits for smaller projects. Eligible expenses are capped at \$150,000, with a maximum credit of \$22,500.

Expenses must be incurred within a 24 month period. The mandatory five-year carryforward has been eliminated. The tax credit may be taken in the year the repairs are completed and carried forward for nine years. Credits may be transferred with the sale of the property so long as the transfer of property occurs before the repairs are placed in service. Taxpayers are allowed to claim credits for a rehabilitation once every five years. The state charges a fee of no greater than 1% of rehabilitation expenses to process the claim for the tax credit.

Visit Preservation North Carolina for more details: <https://www.presnc.org/get-help/tax-credits/>. Find more information and the application forms at the NC State Historic Preservation Office: <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/>

Volunteer Opportunities with *The West Ender*

New Board members - The West End Association will elect four new board members at our February 2016 meeting. If you would like to become more involved with the WEA, please contact us.

Business Membership Coordinator - Local businesses join the West End Association as Business Members. They are full members of the WEA and we publish their small ads in each issue of the newsletter. The Coordinator is responsible for recruiting and renewing business members.

Delivery Routes - *The West Ender* is distributed to >1000 addresses in the West End Historic District by dedicated volunteers who deliver the new issues directly to residences. Having a route is a great way to get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood. We currently have one open route. If you live in or near this area please consider volunteering to help:

Route #2 - West 1st St. to West 4th St and Piedmont Ave to West 4th St.;

Contact us TODAY at thewestender@yahoo.com

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The West Ender

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