



Let's Keep Clayton Beautiful



Clayton is a beautiful town and always has been—except for the paper cups, fast-food wrappers and other trash on the sides of the streets.

We've got nice homes, lots of trees, plenty of pretty flowers everywhere, and enough litter to diminish a lot of the beauty.

In recent years, we in town government have been doing everything we can think of to keep that small town beauty and charm as we grow.

We're requiring developers to save more trees and to plant more, too, when they build new subdivisions.

We're even planting new trees ourselves, enough to earn the designation of *Tree City USA*. We're requiring businesses to plant more bushes and shrubs.

And we're planting more flowers around town than ever before.

But, we've not done much so far to curb our littering problem. That will change this month, though. The Police Department has been directed to keep a sharp eye out for littering of all types—cigarette butts and bags of fast-food trash thrown out car windows, debris blowing out the bed of pickup trucks and folks throwing their garbage on the side of the road.

The County Sheriff's Department is cracking down, too.

I'm afraid, though, that it's going to take more

than that to keep

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Clayton litter-free. We need the help of civic groups and clubs, too. I'm asking every one of them to volunteer to keep a

street or road in town clean. Other towns do it, and it works. We can do it, too. It's past time we got something like this organized and going.

When the bond issue passes this month, we're going to have the money we need to repair and resurface every street in town that needs it—let's make them pretty streets.

And, we're going to have better parks and more park land. Let's make them litter-free.

Litter doesn't have to be a problem. Working together, we can stop it—town government, civic leaders and you.



It will take more than a crack down by the Police Department and Sheriff's Department to clean up litter in our area. Civic groups, clubs and other volunteers could make a big difference in keeping Clayton litter-free.

Streets and Parks Bond Issues on the Ballot

The election this month is more than just a presidential primary. It also features two referendum proposals—a \$3 million project to bring town streets up to modern-day standards and a \$4 million project to buy more park land, while we can still afford it, and upgrade existing parks.

Local civic leaders have come out strongly in favor of the bond issues, mostly because they offer a way to finance some of the town's basic needs without raising taxes. Since they focus on streets and parks, the two projects are also seen as providing a benefit for virtually all town residents, while reducing the need for more costly work in future years.

“What we’re talking about is pretty basic,” said Mayor Jody McLeod. “Our streets need work, and we need to get more park land before land prices around here go through the roof. We’re not talking about anything fancy. Just the basics. Streets and parks.”

The Town of Clayton is in a “very, very strong” position financially and can easily afford both projects without raising taxes, according to a report issued by Davenport and Associates, the town’s financial consultants. “You’re coming from a position of strength,” advised Consultant Ted Cole, who made a presentation to the Town Council. He said the bonds can easily be retired over time. “Being able to do this without burdening taxpayers is huge,” the Mayor said. “We’ve worked hard over the years to manage the town’s finances properly, so we can afford projects like this when we need to do them.”

“The \$3 million *Streets Bond* will bring streets all over town up to modern-day standards.

The Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) looked over the town’s street system last year and issued a report recommending massive upgrading and repaving. Their report said that more than 40 percent of the town’s 65 miles of streets are in need of work.

Here’s a breakdown of the *Streets* project:

- \$1.3 million has been set aside for maintenance and resurfacing.
- Repair of subsurface conditions—storm drainage, water lines and sewer lines—will get \$500,000 of the package.
- \$350,000 will be allotted to build new sidewalks and repair those that need it. More than half our streets don’t have sidewalks, and only five percent have sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- Helping the state build a roadway linking Barber Mill Road to Hwy. 42 West adjacent to the Town Operations Center will take \$300,000. The project would improve safety in the area and reduce the congestion around West Clayton Elementary School.
- Installation of neighborhood street safety improvements will get \$225,000, with most going to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety through pedestrian crosswalks, traffic humps, bike lanes, roundabouts, center line-off-set structures

and landscaping—all where needed.

The \$4 million *Parks and Open Space Bond* will provide \$1.8 million for acquisition of future park land, while it is still affordable.

The Town is adding \$475,000 in recreation funding from the County and a \$500,000 state grant to boost the project.

“As Clayton grows and the need for additional parkland increases, it just makes sense to have sites purchased and ready for work,” the Mayor said. “It’s good stewardship, first of all, but it will also save money and assure that Clayton maintains its reputation as *the Premier Community for Active Families*.”

Here’s a breakdown of the remainder of the *Parks* project:

- \$2 million will go to develop a new park on a 65-acre tract the town bought recently on Glen Laurel Road. The site is suitable for athletic fields and nature and walking trails, as well as an off-leash dog park, a Disc Golf course or skate park.
- Municipal Park on Stallings Street will be reworked using \$875,000 from the bond issue. The old restroom and concession stand will be replaced with modern facilities in a central location. Athletic fields will be realigned and new ones added.
- All-Star Park on Front Street will get \$300,000 to add a picnic shelter and restrooms, as well as incorporating land recently purchased to expand the park.