

ANDERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES

February 10th, 2026

Members Present:

Denise Palmer – Board Chair, Lewis Ridenour, Scott Burton, Matthew Bader, Ben Taylor – Parks Director

Others Present:

Commissioner Chad McNabb, Commissioner Tracy Wandell, Stephanie Wells – Tourism Director, Robert Holbrook – Finance Director, Andrew Stone – Secretary

The Conservation Board meeting was called to order at 5:00pm on February 10th, 2026.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Lewis Ridenour, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lewis Ridenour, seconded by Matt Bader, to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting, with an amendment to Unfinished Business Item No. 2 to remove language stating that SurveyMonkey would be used for the survey and to reflect that the Anderson County Government website will be used instead.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

Anderson County resident Ralph Martin addressed the Board.

Unfinished Business:

1st Item of Unfinished Business:

Discussion was held regarding the status of the road erosion repair at Anderson County Park. Chairman Palmer reported that she had met with Road Superintendent Gary Long, who has been working with engineering companies to determine the cost and path forward in repairing the roadway failure of Park Road.

Item deferred to next meeting.

2nd Item of Unfinished Business:

An update was provided regarding the preliminary concept design of the new Claxton Community Park and the previously discussed community survey.

Mayor Terry Frank submitted a letter updating the Board on the current progress of the design.

Tourism Director Stephanie Wells presented the results of the Claxton Community survey.

Claxton Community Commissioners McNabb and Wandell provided feedback reflecting some of their constituents' views on the proposed project design and expressed a desire to explore locating the project at the current Claxton Elementary School site. Board members will review the survey results for further discussion at a future meeting.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Lewis Ridenour, to move forward with an RFQ for design firms to assist the Board in designing the new park space.
Motion carried unanimously.

3rd Item of Unfinished Business:

Mayor Terry Frank provided a letter updating the Board on Lost Bottom and Gibbs Ferry projects and the status of current and potential grants for each.

4th Item of Unfinished Business:

Finance Director Robby Holbrook provided information regarding bids received for the repair of shoreline erosion near the campground.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Matt Bader, to approve the lowest bid submitted, contingent upon Jason Mann's review of the bids and scope of work and his written recommendation to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1st Item of New Business:

Stephanie Wells provided information regarding the Bill Dance Giant Bass Open, an upcoming fishing tournament to be held at Anderson County Park in October 2026.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Matt Bader, to approve the fishing tournament specifications as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Lewis Ridenour, that a request be made to fund from the Tourism budget any additional work resulting in overtime or compensatory time for Park staff due to the increased workload associated with the Bill Dance Giant Bass Open.

Motion carried unanimously.

2nd Item of New Business:

Secretary/Human Resources Director Andrew Stone presented Park Manager Ben Taylor with his fifteen-year tenure award.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting scheduled for March 2nd, 2026

ANDERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES

November 12th, 2025

Members Present:

Denise Palmer – Board Chair, Scott Burton, Tony Powers, Matthew Bader, Ben Taylor – Parks Director

Members Absent:

Lewis Ridenour

Others Present:

Terry Frank – Mayor, Commissioner Chad McNabb, Stephanie Wells – Tourism Director, Robert Holbrook – Finance Director, Andrew Stone – Secretary

The Conservation Board meeting was called to order at 5:00pm on November 12th, 2025.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Tony Powers, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Matt Bader, seconded by Tony Powers, to approve the prior meeting Minutes from the October 6th, 2025 meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

No public present.

Unfinished Business:

1st Item of Unfinished Business:

Discussion held on the status of the road erosion repair at Anderson County Park.
Motion by Tony Powers, seconded by Scott Burton, that in light of the grant secured to pave Park Road, and the original agreement with the Road Superintendent, the Conservation Board requests that County Commission authorize the Highway Department to proceed with repairing of Park Road before water levels rise.
Motion carried unanimously.

2nd Item of Unfinished Business:

Discussion held on the preliminary concept design of the new Claxton Community Park and the previously discussed community survey.
Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Matt Bader, to proceed with the distribution of the amended survey to the Claxton community accompanied by a press release, utilizing the Anderson County Government website and the Clinton Courier. The Board further

requests that the timing and release of the survey and press materials be coordinated at the discretion of the Conservation Board Chair, the Mayor, and the Tourism Director.

Motion carried unanimously.

3rd Item of Unfinished Business:

Mayor Terry Frank provided updates on multiple park projects and the status of current and potential grants for each.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Tony Powers, to authorize the Mayor to pursue additional grant funding for the Gibbs Ferry project in connection with the Pellissippi Blueway initiative.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1st Item of New Business:

Ben Taylor discussed the current state of the Park dump truck.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Matt Bader, to approve funding in the amount of \$7,500 from the current Park budget for the repair of the dump truck.

Motion carried unanimously.

2nd Item of New Business:

Ben Taylor provided an update on a previously received quote for the repair of shoreline erosion near the campground.

Motion by Scott Burton, seconded by Matt Bader, to proceed with the shoreline erosion control project on the campground side of the Park, utilizing reserved Monsanto funding, with the remaining project costs to be covered by Sports Gambling Revenue. The total project expense is not to exceed \$68,500.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

3rd Item of New Business:

Discussion held on the current meeting schedule for the Conservation Board.

The Board requests that the Board Chair and Secretary review the Board's charter regarding meeting requirements and present their findings at the next meeting.

No motion required.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting scheduled for January 5th, 2026



ANDERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TERRY FRANK
COUNTY MAYOR

February 10, 2026

Commissioner Denise Palmer
Chairman, Conservation Board

RE: Meeting

Dear Chairman Palmer and Honorable Members of the Conservation Board,

Below are a couple of updates:

Claxton Park on property next to new Claxton School: Dr. Parrott indicates they are still working on architect and engineering plans for the space. To my knowledge, they are planning a bathroom and pavilion with the remaining park amenities to be determined by the Conservation Board. While you await the school's dimensions, details, etc., the Board may want to consider doing a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for design firms to assist the board in designing the space. From there, you could get a proposal from respondents that you like. Typically, you would work with a firm, and they would organize some options for the space based on the survey results. You could then next step by having them present some ideas to the community for them to informally vote on. I'm happy to help if you like.

Grant updates: The Tourism Enhancement Grant for the signage at Lost Bottom Park is in process. The Firm Lose Design has been engaged and they will present some signage ideas as well as any construction documents needed to get proposals or bids.

The Lost Bottom Park NRDA contract has been received from the state. That contract is currently scheduled for final approval at the Commission meeting on the 17th.

Work continues on the environmental processes for Gibbs Ferry Park. Construction costs have escalated and we have requested additional funding from the federal funding program. We have received favorable responses but have no final confirmation yet.

Lastly, I have received several applications for the vacancy on the board and hope to have a confirmation soon.

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PHONE: (865) 457-6200

Claxton Community Park Survey Results

Responses received from November 25, 2025 to January 31, 2026

Total Responses to Survey: 476

Claxton Community Population Size: 10,290

Confidence Level: 95% (Standard)

Margin of Error: ~4.37% (rounded to $\pm 4.4\%$)

Understanding Results Precision: A $\pm 4.4\%$ margin of error indicates a high level of precision, as it is lower than the common 5% research standard.

Interpretation: If 50% of your 476 respondents say "Yes" to a question, you can be 95% confident that the true percentage of the 10,290 people who would say "Yes" is between 45.6% and 54.4% ($50\% \pm 4.4\%$).

Impact of Sample Size: With a larger population, a sample size of 476 provides a solid, representative margin of error.

Claxton Community Park Relocation Survey

Question Number 1 Concerning Amenities & Features

The questions stated, "What amenities would you most like to see included in the new park?"

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one option and list additional options.

473 people responded to question #1

Response	Number	Percentage
Paved Walking Track	270	57.08%
ADA Accessible Gravel Walking Track	68	14.38%
Rubber or Flex Material Walking Track	143	30.23%
Picnic Shelter	312	65.96%
Recreation Field/Play Meadow	222	46.93%
Adult Fitness Equipment	56	11.84%
Playground Equipment	346	73.15%
Swing Set	237	50.11%
Rock Climbing Wall	107	22.62%
Courts	74	15.64%
Skateboard Park	57	12.05%
Stage Area for Community Events / Concerts	82	17.34%
Permanent Restroom Facilities	231	48.84%

Interpretation of Percentage: 57.08% of people that responded to question number 1 answered that they would like to see the park include a paved walking track.

Respondents were allowed to include additional responses to question number 1 which included the following (please note that responses were not edited or altered):

- Bucket swings and def need more toddler play equipment
- Building with permanent restrooms for community events
- Indoor event area
- More picnic spots
- Over hangs over the playground during very hot summer months to keep the shade for children.
- Park attendant and parking and handicapped parking
- Play equipment that kids can actually play on that's not for older kids
- Rehab the the wood playing structures
- Soft rubber for playground
- Splash pad (14)
- Tire swing
- Horseshoe pits and volleyball courts
- Just open clean area for community events

Question Number 2 Concerning Most Important Amenity

The questions stated, "From the options above, list the three amenities that you would like incorporated into a new park in order of importance."

468 People Responded to Question #2 and the responses were ranked as listed below.

- #1 Playground Equipment
- #2 Permanent Restroom Facilities
- #3 Picnic Shelter

Question Number 3 Concerning Community Needs

The question stated, "What needs do you feel the new park should address?"

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one option and list additional options.

471 people responded to question #3

Response	Number	Percentage
Safe play areas for kids	437	92.78%
Gathering spaces	270	57.32%
Fitness opportunities	122	25.90%
Green space preservation	175	37.15%

Other:

- drinking fountains
- don't shortcut anything!
- Area for dogs. Aspire is the closest and it's too far for a quick trip.
- Concessions
- Covered eating areas
- Parking and safe access
- Space for disabled children
- Trees
- water play
- A great place
- Accessible parking and play equipment for kids with disabilities and parents with disabilities to take their kids without a disability and to gather with friends who do not have a disability. Permanent restrooms must have a section for people with disabilities must have grab bars a seat that is 17 inches high and a flush control on the outside of the toilet. Soap and towel containers must be put where wheelchair users can reach

them....not on the back wall of the sink.. All Picnic Shelters need to have an paved accessible sidewalk to it

- Handicapped parking
- Horseshoe puts and volleyball courts
- Make it accessible for everyone!! We have the budget for it
- No smoking areas
- Safe and accessible for all residents and visitors
- Security

Question Number 4 Concerning Memorial

The question stated, “If there were a way to memorialize the Kids Palace structure or honor members of the community who were instrumental in building it, how would you prefer to see that done?”

The respondents were only able to choose one option.

453 people responded to question # 4.

Response	Number	%
A commemorative plaque or sign	119	26%
A memorial garden or landscaped area with markers	73	16%
Artwork or a mural reflecting the history of Kids Palace	98	22%
Incorporate pieces of the existing structure into the new structure	117	26%
Naming a section for the new park in their honor	46	10%

Question Number 5 Concerning Additional Suggestions

The question stated, “Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for the new design?”

The responses are listed below. Please note that the responses below have not been edited or altered. However, comments that were irrelevant to the survey or future Claxton Community Park were omitted from this report.

A building or shelter to use still in the winter for gathering events. Indoor golf simulator building, Public pool, Bowling alley, Skate rink. There are alot of ideas that this community could benefit from. Hope this helps.
A community pool would be nice.
A fence around the play area with gates that the older children and adults can open but the littles can't
A larger toddler area for smaller kids. All the parks in Clinton now don't have much of a toddler area to play.

A nature based playground and/or a wheelchair accessible playground. There are many options of play structures that include both stairs and ramps where kids with mobility equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, etc) can get all the way to the top with their peers.
A small area with a puppy park where kids and parents and pups can play
A stage area for community events could make this park a real community gathering place.
A thoughtful design that reflects nature would be wonderful!
A water area for the kids for use in the summer months so we don't have to go to Clinton or Powell
Adequate parking.
All inclusive a must.
Any park for the children of claxton is better than no park at all. I know my grandkids & nieces/nephews of the claxton community would love it no matter what. We love the area that the park is at.
Avoid a cheap plastic standard playground. Most kids get bored quickly on them.
Baseball park would be such an asset to the community
Beautiful landscape, shade
Bring back the kids bash. Community park celebration day. Miss the events and the community coming together just to let the kids run free and have fun.
Build the playground like the original one, make it look like a castle!
Climbing wall could be used by all ages
Community garden
Community pool
Convenient access to the park not impaired or in competition with the new school.
Do not do wood chips, rubber pieces are still a choking hazard but not as high risk as the wood chips. Have it fenced in. Open year round.
Don't just use the same basic plastic pieces that are available in other parks. Keep the unique structures of the original park. And unique play spaces like the sandbox and open fields and creek.
Fence it in
Find a way to keep out trouble and drugs
For all ages not just little children. Aspire it's harder for 7-12 year olds to play on if they are taller.
For the playground, please consider limiting "death drops" when choosing a layout for the equipment. Karns community park has 2 separate play equipment for over and under 5 and a fenced play space.
Get inspiration from Aspire Park playground
Get it done sooner than later.
Good lighting
Greenway - Safe place to walk and ride bikes
Has the consideration for utilizing the current Claxton Elementary School area once it moves to its new location?
Have you looked at the area between Clinton Hwy and Old State? It used to be a roadside park years ago and needs lots of work.
Hopefully the new park can be built on land donated by the board of education at the current elementary school. At least one of the smaller buildings could be used as a

community center, meeting place and have restrooms. I don't think putting the park next to the new school will work out from a child safety standpoint.

I am hoping that the new park will be constructed on the vacant land of the current school. I am not in favor of a joint school/public park as safety and logistics will be a nightmare. I would like to see the current gym and the new building at the far rear of the school be used/incorporated into the new park. That playground could be seriously updated as well.

I feel like it should stay the same. Just add a few things to it. Splash pad. Basketball court. Bathrooms at least 2. No porter pottys (nasty). Pave the parking spaces and add lines. (Where gravel is). Also add more picnic tables around it sometimes other people like to picnic in the sun. Take the sand part out.

I grew up going to this park on an almost weekly basis and actually cried when I found out it was going to be torn down. New features are nice but the most important thing to me is that it still feels like Kid's Palace. The playground should still be the big, wooden jungle gym type. These kinds of playgrounds are far and few between now and the uniqueness is what makes Kid's Palace so special. There are regular/plastic playgrounds everywhere. Of course I don't expect it to be exactly the same but please keep the playground equipment wooden with lots of play structures.

I guess the new site will dictate the layout and amenities able to be included. So I'm unsure the size of a walking trail will be, but it would be nice to have several paths. Trash and recycling bins.

I know that safety regulations have changed since I've been a kid, but the new metal playgrounds always seem to get scorching hot during the summer. Also since they're so cookie cutter it feels like every park that has one is the same. If we could keep a child safe wooden structure, I think it could be used more in the summer. Also if there was a small seperated area for kids under 5 that'd be helpful, I've got a two year old and I'm always having to go in and run interference so she doesn't get steamrolled by the bigger kids running around. She also loves swings, and early on couldn't do too much, so hopefully the new park will have more than one or two basket swings so their smaller kids can be occupied while their older siblings get to run around.

I love the location. Shading with either trees or sun shade sails would be wonderful

I suggest you build this playground since the community was robbed of a place that was loved.

I think it is important for children's safety that the playground is fenced in especially when there are roads nearby.

I think the playground and the EMS station should be placed in the same area rather than looking for separate locations.

I would like to see a park that rivals the one in South Clinton. I understand that \$250,000 would have to stretch a long ways. I hope that there's going to be opportunity to buy a brick or two engraving as a donation much like the one in South Clinton. I do not agree with moving the parking in the first place, but if the park must move, this needs to be a good place for the entire community to go to. We have done birthday parties and church events at the old park in unison with the community center..

I would like to see Anderson Co. research and find companies who specialize in safe modern playground designs. I am favorable in the Fort type structure, instead of individual pieces that don't challenge the children's imagination. With today's building industry, there are many types of composite woods available (Trex, Timber Tech) that would allow for a

similar type of structure as we had. These types of materials last for years upon years, with hardly no maintenance. I would try to negotiate with TVA and have the old existing location mitigated for clean up and try to locate the park in the same location or area. It is an idea site, a shelter still left, parking area could be improved, visible from Highway, a small restroom facility could be built and an excellent playground site for our community. The old school(currently existing school) site would also be a great opportunity for the new playground. But, please do your due diligence and research and spend this money wisely. Claxton deserves this action from you and the entire county & surrounding areas would prosper from this new playground.

I would love some pickle ball courts

I would love to see a path around the park that can be utilized for things like, a story walk; field identification of local plants.

I'm excited to see improvements to Our community in Claxton, we have been neglected far to long.

I'm not sure if the old Claxton community center will exist anymore or not. But I feel like the park needs large playground, lots of grass play area, restrooms, community center building, multiple covered picnic shelters. The park in South Clinton is a good example of a nice park.

It makes sense that the new Claxton town center area will be situated around the new school and the crossroads of Edgemoor, Raccoon Valley; Clinton Highway. The new park should be welcoming to a wide variety of activities and age groups. A walking trail, playground equipment, covered areas for picnics, etc. and restroom facilities (maybe similar to South Clinton Park). Appropriate parking, lighting and security cameras/patrols should utilized. No overlapping property with the school but make it easy for classrooms to access the park during the school year, when appropriate. Claxton pride should be represented somehow; Bull Run and it's contribution to our community should be characterized, too. Thank you to TVA for the contribution for a new park for our community.

It needs more mulch so the little ones can climb up!

It should be built Handicap accessible for disabled children.

It should have all of the features that the old park had at a minimum. If this is supposed to be an improvement, it should have more.

Just my 2 cents. I see very little use of adult fitness equipment. It sounds nice but seems to be a waste of money and time. Very excited to see what this becomes.

Keep it on land away from the school. Need to keep children secure from visitors to a public park.

Keep it retro wooden themed, this playground is so cute and unique and unlike all the metal modern playgrounds you find everywhere. We don't even want lose the playground we have and many people in our community are disappointed in the fact it's being removed. So please for the love of God built our community another safe kid centrist playground. We don't need a fancy walking track or fitness park. We need a park for CHILDREN. Thank you.

Keep the old rustic look, Nobody likes the modernized stuff!

Keep the original play structure

Large Decorative Water fountain; some large attractive boulders that kids can climb on and over. An area setup with background shrubs and flowers suitable for event photos would be nice. Benches under shade for adults to sit and watch the kids play.

Leave the park the same exact I grew up playing on this park this park is my childhood and now my daughters and I'm glad u can share that with her

Lighting and a water fountain
Lighting needs to cover the area.
Lighting should be included for safety and security during the nighttime hours
Look up Harper's Playground. Great example of all inclusive playgrounds
Lots of color!
Lots of seating areas around the areas, even on the walking tracks.
Love the wooden castle feel, most unique park we go to. Would love to see that "feeling" continued in a new space. Would to preserve green space, have a dedicated walking area or the park be a fenced area for kids safety with the road
Make colorful and safe
Make for kids of all ages from 2 to 14. Making it easy for bathroom access while being close to your other kids playing. Fenced in would be great like South Clinton Park. Safety is key. Esp close to a major road.
Make it similar to the old design. Zip line, big kid play ground and little kid play ground.
Make sure to try to include shaded areas for parents or even some play areas.
Make the park like the one in south Clinton by South Clinton Elementary School. It's enclosed has all the the things needed and has things for those children with a handicap or physical disability.
Make the playground equipment from wood like the previous one and make it bigger than the last one.
Make this a fun and safe area for kids. It would be amazing to have space for birthday parties, as it is hard find places to have parties that aren't too expensive for low income families. Make this a place for FAMILY.
Monkey bars for smaller kids that can actually reach out to and more tire swings
More bucket swings for kids
Most playgrounds seem to be geared towards 5-12 year olds, I would love to see an area of the new park geared towards younger children. An area with a flat paved walking path would also be an excellent addition to any new park.
My kids loved to play with their friends at Claxton community because it was so unique. Every other park has the same equipment, same swings. Make the park unique and prolific! Have the swings be TALL, have it be open ended so that kids can interact with the play structure in many different ways.
Naming a section for the new park in their honor
Natural landscaped area
Need water fountain an restrooms
Needs to be the Claxton area and needs to be totally focused for child play
Needs to stay a place for kids to enjoy
Newer playground structure. No metal slides. Bigger area for smaller children. No coal Ash anywhere near this park. Benches and shade for parents to sit. Covered picnic area
Our children deserve a fun clean safe place to play!
Our children need somewhere safe to play. We need to return our sports programs.
Our family wouldn't really love a skate park!! They had one in LaFollette and took it down. The one in oak ridge is not safe and the people of Clinton and surrounding areas would flock to ride on something nice that is equipped for scooters, skateboards, bicycles and roller skates! There are plenty of parks in the area where you can slide and swing. We need something different, something that draws attention, something new and fun!

Out in a facility that everyone in the community could take advantage of.
Pickleball courts please. All family members young to old can play and play together!
Place the park in a space that is not tied to other fixtures so there cannot be any confusion about maintenance year round or daytime usage. The public should not be allowed wandering around on the school grounds at any time.
Plan long term for greenway connection over bridge to haw ridge and greenway in oak ridge. Incorporate trail access if practicable to location or pedestrian and bike access to the park.
Plant shade trees and grass areas to sit on ground to enjoy picnic or just talking with family or friends
Playground to have shade structures, covered picnic area, many elements of the Claxton Park were so fun. The kids loved the wooden playground and all the different levels and things to climb and play on. Not many playground like that anymore.
Please add a tire swing, I'm begging you. If you don't I'll be so disappointed the old tire swing was my life and then it broke and yall took it out. I need a tire swing.
Please consider using nontoxic playground materials where possible. If the old structure had to be torn down due to public safety concerns, the new design should take children's health into consideration.
Please do not use recycled tire rubber chips. It is highly toxic and as someone who has lived in Claxton my entire life, I would not take my kids there if that were the case.
Please dont use rubber mulch, it is toxic and this park area already struggles with toxicity
Please keep the Palace design. It's unique and my kids love it!
Please lean toward more natural ground materials for our kiddos and avoid things like turf and recycled tires.
Please make it safe for children.
Please make sure there are cameras for security and everyone's safety and limit the number of gates in the fence surrounding the playground area. PLEASE fence in the playground area
Please make the playground toddler friendly with shade on the playground !
Please please please preserve the expanse of the existing park. This is my son's favorite park, and was his dad's favorite when he was a child, 30 years ago. Please don't skimp on the playground aspect. A wood playground with castle and climbing is so so so integral to children's growth. Shaded areas for parents to watch their children from would be lovely. A shelter is not inherently necessary but would be nice, with a permanent bathroom.
Plenty of swings (all kids love swings), grass area big enough for a lot of kids to run & play perhaps pass football, frisbee, etc. As a mother of 6, bathrooms are a must!
Put in a splash pad that has more than the couple tiny features the clinton and other splash pads have,
Put it somewhere pretty and secluded. Nobody wants to enjoy time at a park if it's located by a junk yard, etc.
Put the new playground on Anderson County property, not Anderson County Schools property. This gives some control of access to the park to the school system.
Question #4, I would also want to see artwork or a mural reflecting the history of Kids Palace.
Regarding the memorialization, my grandfather was one of the men that helped build the park. He worked at Y-12 and said other men from there helped as well. My grandfather passed two years ago, so he isn't alive to see what's happening with the park. But I am. It stings a little to know my kids will no longer be playing a piece of something my

grandfather helped build for the kids of the community, like my own. A plaque and mural would be beautiful! However, murals are the first thing vandalized as well, unfortunately, so naming a section would feel more permanent.

Replacement of community center for indoor events

Rules and regulations of park usage clearly states and posted. Safe environment and well lit. Inviting to ALL visitors and residents of the community. Some natural space included like gardens or open space areas. Thank you.

Safe Entrance into/out of the park, Adequate parking

Safe, Well lit, Available room for a vendor or two

Safety fences around the playground are a very important component to this area to help protect the kids in the play area.

Safety first

Shade over playground so equipment isn't hot to the touch and the community can use the space without overheating.

Shades sails like at Karns Community Park for kids to stay safe during summer play. The park at Morningside is a great example for a park design.

Simple just the equipment for kids to play on swings, slides, monkey rings. Nothing fancy just basic high quality play equipment made from materials that don't rot. And NOT at the school. Somewhere when anytime you can go.

Since parks are not an essential responsibility of government, I would suggest getting the county's fiscal house in order first. High debt load, millions in interest, terribly paid employees-all while having the eighth highest tax rate in Tennessee.

So many children enjoyed playing community baseball and football in this wonderful community. I'd like to see that continue, if possible.

Soft ground (rubber, turf, padded) in kids area

Zip line

Splash pad, pool if there is room.

Splash pad. It's great space for it, and the one in Clinton is tiny and Oak Ridge doesn't have one.

Swings are very stimulating and safe for very young children. Babies, especially ones who can only crawl, are obsessed with swings but can only sit in bucket seats. Please ensure that you have more than one or two bucket swings as this is typically their main attraction at parks. The swings where an adult can swing with a baby is a fantastic idea that we love using. Maybe think of another thing or two for toddlers. I notice most parks around here don't cater to ages 0-3, which is the age that most kids start going to parks.

Parks need to feel and be safe for the kids and the mothers/families visiting. I believe a sheltered picnic area will welcome troubled people who don't necessarily belong at a park around children.

Most of our parks lack appropriate shade. During the summer park equipment get excruciating hot to the touch. During a recent trip to Charleston there was a park that had huge shade sails to keep the children and park cool.

Please feel free to email me at michelle.n.plant@gmail.com and I will happily further discuss or volunteer my time to help in any design concepts.

Tall slides would be awesome. Similar to the one at Aspire.

Teeter Toter and merry go round!

Thank community and Spud Chandler on plaque

The most important thing to consider when building this new area is a safe space for children to play. A picnic shelter area would be excellent for those who wish to host gatherings and birthday parties in the new location. If you go big on landscaping you'll have a big landscaping bill. Keep it simple and functional and safe!

The new area needs to be convenient for the community to use. It doesn't need to be next to the school due to the fact that it would be a safety issue to have people on/next to school property during school hours. As a parent I would not want "unauthorized" people walking /playing next to the school during school hours.

The new park should be an all around family fun place to go regardless of event. Having kids and parents activities available.

The old school would be a great place buy you would have a gym for ball, make a football/soccer field. Plenty of space and CB parking.

The park should be a place for families with younger children and grandchildren to go and safely play. Adult exercising equipment shouldn't be incorporated with this park as melton lake park already has this equipment.

The play palace should be preserved to the extent possible in the relocation to honor and preserve the work of the community members who built it.

This is the area for additional comments

This needs to be 100% community involvement. Don't make decisions unless you consider the voices of the people. Claxton is a forgotten town in our region. The children and citizens in the community need a safe and sophisticated area to gather, kids to play safely and be a new community staple. I also urge to do SWOT analysis of other parks nearby (Oak Ridge, Farragut, Powell) to see their strengths and weaknesses. Give Claxton a park we can all be proud of that's safe and resourceful to all. Don't take this away. I would urge to also have the backing of local legislature endorcements to have this pushed through. There should be plentiful money resources from multiple "buckets" if you will. Utilize our tax monies from tourism (however we could have that incorporated.) thank you!

This park needs to be for children. Anything todo with adults working out needs to be away from the children. The water pad in powell was great. Until they added the adult equright ontop of it. Then the little girls no longer wanted to play while they felt adults were watching them as the worked out. So be smarter.

This survey is being conducted more than a year after the decision was made to demolish the community park. Unfortunately, community input was not meaningfully considered at the time, and the decision appeared to prioritize authority over the best interests of the children and families of Claxton.

The new park should not be located on the Claxton Elementary School campus. A community park should be in a separate location that is accessible to the public at all hours. While the school system and county leadership may state that access will be permitted, it raises valid concerns about safety, traffic, and supervision. Introducing additional visitors and potential issues onto an elementary school campus is not a prudent long-term solution.

If land availability is a concern, the county could consider using a portion of the existing elementary school property to develop a dedicated park space that is clearly separate from school operations. This would be a more appropriate and secure option.

The county government exceeded its appropriate role by making this decision without sufficient community engagement, turning what should have been a community-driven

process into a political one. A significant majority of Claxton residents supported keeping the original park.

I respectfully request that the county identify a separate location from the new school site and construct a community park that is equal to or better than the one that was removed.

Turf the playground area , sand gets everywhere... everywhere

Use bright colors in the design

Use some of the existing county owned Claxton School property for the park. It's centrally located in the Claxton community, and could offer existing infrastructure to reduce future park costs.

We just need a new park I grew up at the kids palace playing and it's so sad my son only got 2 years with it

We love our park and are so sad to be "losing it" we love gathering there and playing

We need a skatepark concrete preferably but I'll settle for wood. Mostly transitions and ramps. I would like to have a bathroom in case I have to have a potty break but also incorporate pieces of the kid Palace into the park but not the rusty ass slides. Finally, in closing we really need a skate park here. Thank you

We would like to have a building for community events and a playground

We would love another wooden park. There aren't many and every one around us now is gone. But most of all, shade and bathrooms. I know I didn't choose bathrooms but they are a MUST at a playground. But no one wants just bathrooms. And a nice place to have birthday parties under a pavilion.

We'd love to see more toddler playground equipment, and shaded seating. More room to run for the kids

Wooden structures!

Would love for it to be adult friendly so adults can tend to their kids or watch them more closely if needed.

Yes PLEASE!!! Enough of building the parks next to an elementary school... the homeless frequent the parks and will continue to do so... we honestly don't do enough for our homeless BUT PLEASE 🙏 FOR THE LOVE OF GOD build them far away from any school so there's NO WORRIES about homeless creeping around our children... I support any efforts for rehabilitation of our homeless community... find a cheaper location and spend the difference on rehabilitation for the homeless... Thank You and May God Bless your initiative...

Zip line, Encourage fitness for kids, plaque with goals, Fitness for fun: monkey bars, pull-up bars. Volleyball court maybe sand. Trees and landscaping, family picnic tables.

Not just a playground but a park setting