

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

---

### **1.1 Purpose**

Community planning in Henderson County has traditionally begun as a “grassroots” effort, in response to a specific need or problem. These efforts usually result in identifying areas of the County which may be in need zoning changes. After much time has been spent studying, compiling information about, and examining individual issues unique to an area a zoning change or changes may occur. The most study of an area resulting in a rezoning was the US Highway 25 North Area Zoning Study, a small area zoning study adopted by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners in June 2005.

Henderson County adopted the Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan (CCP) on July 6, 2004 (as amended through April 7, 2008). The Comprehensive Plan is the result of efforts by the community, local organizations and County Officials. The Comprehensive Plan recommends the detailed study of small areas of the County to address a range of issues including, but not limited to zoning. The Comprehensive Plan prioritized the community planning areas based on anticipated growth and the area’s relation to the growth management strategy. The Comprehensive Plan recommends the County undertake the Edneyville Community Plan second due to the marked residential and nonresidential growth in the area.

The Edneyville Community Plan will help implement the recommendations of the Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will be a community-specific comprehensive plan for the Edneyville Community that outlines the future goals as related to Land Use and Development, Community Facilities and Public Services, Agriculture, Economic Development, Housing, Transportation/Access Management, Community Character and Design, and Natural/Cultural Resources.

### **1.2 Process**

The process for developing the Edneyville Community plan began with the adoption of a Communities Plan Charter by the Board of Commissioners on February 20, 2008. On April 7, 2008 the Board of Commissioners appointed the Community Planning Committee. The Committee consists of nine (9) community residents including one (1) liaison from the Henderson County Planning Board and an ex-officio member from the City of Hendersonville. The purpose of the Committee is to serve as an advisory role to the Board of Commissioners for recommending policies specific to the Study Area. To be continued...

### **1.3 Historical Overview, Community Beginnings**

The post American Revolution history of the Edneyville and Fruitland communities is closely tied to the history 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, one of many who would later be fortunate enough to receive land grants, his being a large tract of land in what is now northeastern Henderson County. Mills land grant included lands encompassed by the

Edneyville Community Plan Study Area. Mills and his family, along with other pioneers, 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. This treaty was executed in an effort 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 early settlers of these communities, including Mills, did not go unchallenged by the Cherokee.

Fruitland first received its name in the late 1780s. 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, a post office was established in Fruitland with David Merrell as Postmaster. Mills is credited with the naming other Study Area landmarks including: Bearwallow Mountain, Ball Top, Point Lookout, and Sugarloaf Mountain.

The Edneyville community received its name from other settlers from the eastern part of the State. The Edney family left England in 1692 to settle in Pasquotank County, North Carolina. Descendants of these original colonial settlers, brothers Samuel Edney and Asa Edney (born in the 1760s), 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 marring Sarah, and Samuel marring Eleanor. Samuel and Eleanor's first son was born in Edneyville in November 25, 1794. Sarah and Asa lived 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 (Ray). 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 this branch (January 21, 1842).

The communities of Edneyville and Fruitland were among the earliest in Henderson County, being established and 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 1835 (approximately 173 years ago).