



## Name that Creek 2018

RiverLink's Name that Creek program is a local, grassroots program in which communities submit name suggestions for unnamed creeks and vote for the most fitting name. After a name is chosen, it is submitted first to Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Commissioners for approval, and then to the USGS Board of Geographical Names for consideration. Once approved, the creek name will appear on official USGS maps. Since the program's inception, RiverLink has sponsored six successful creek naming campaigns with the help of community volunteers.

This year, RiverLink has worked with residents to select names for two nameless creeks within the City of Asheville. The first naming campaign—initiated by West Asheville resident Sunny Carr—focused on a small tributary of Rhododendron Creek that flows through West Asheville Park. The second campaign focused on a tributary of Reed Creek, and was led by North Asheville resident Lisa Neylan. In both instances, RiverLink created an online poll (Google Doc) to collect potential names from neighbors who live along the creek. Sunny and Lisa volunteered to distribute flyers to their creekside neighbors, making them aware of the online poll. Residents were also given the option to mail in suggested names. After a month, RiverLink gathered the name suggestions and created a city-wide poll to select the official name. City residents were made aware of the poll through RiverLink's website, newsletter, and social media pages. Details are below.

### 1) West Asheville Creek (Orchard Creek)

Location: The unnamed stream occurs in the community of West Asheville, N.C. and is a tributary of Rhododendron Creek (Figure 1). The stream begins near Olney Rd. and flows south between Vance Crescent Ext. and Brevard Rd. (Hwy 191) until it goes underneath Davenport St. and re-emerges to flow alongside Davenport St. before entering West Asheville Park where it joins Rhododendron Creek.

Proposed Names: Logan Creek, Rhododendron Branch, Cairn Creek, Screech Owl Creek, Fox Run Creek, Hawk Talon Creek, Ash Hollow Creek, Chipmunk Creek, Bear Paw Creek, Orchard Creek, Spirit Creek

Winner: Orchard Creek won with 27% of the vote (Figure 2).

Name Significance: Brenda and Ruth Pike-Elliot submitted the name Orchard Creek. They live at 83 Brevard Rd. near where the stream begins. Their neighbor—a long term resident of the site—remembers when there was a large apple orchard along the



beginning of the creek. The neighbor said the apartments at 87 Brevard Rd. housed the orchard workers, and the small house behind it used to be stables

2) Murdock Ave. Creek (Gordon Branch)\*

Location: The unnamed stream begins northeast of Downtown Asheville, N.C. near Town Mountain Rd. (Figure 3). It flows west to Charlotte St., where it crosses under and begins to flow northwest crossing Hillside St. and Annandale Ave. The stream then flows between Linden Ave. on the west and Murdock Ave. to the east before reaching Weaver Park where it joins Reed Creek.

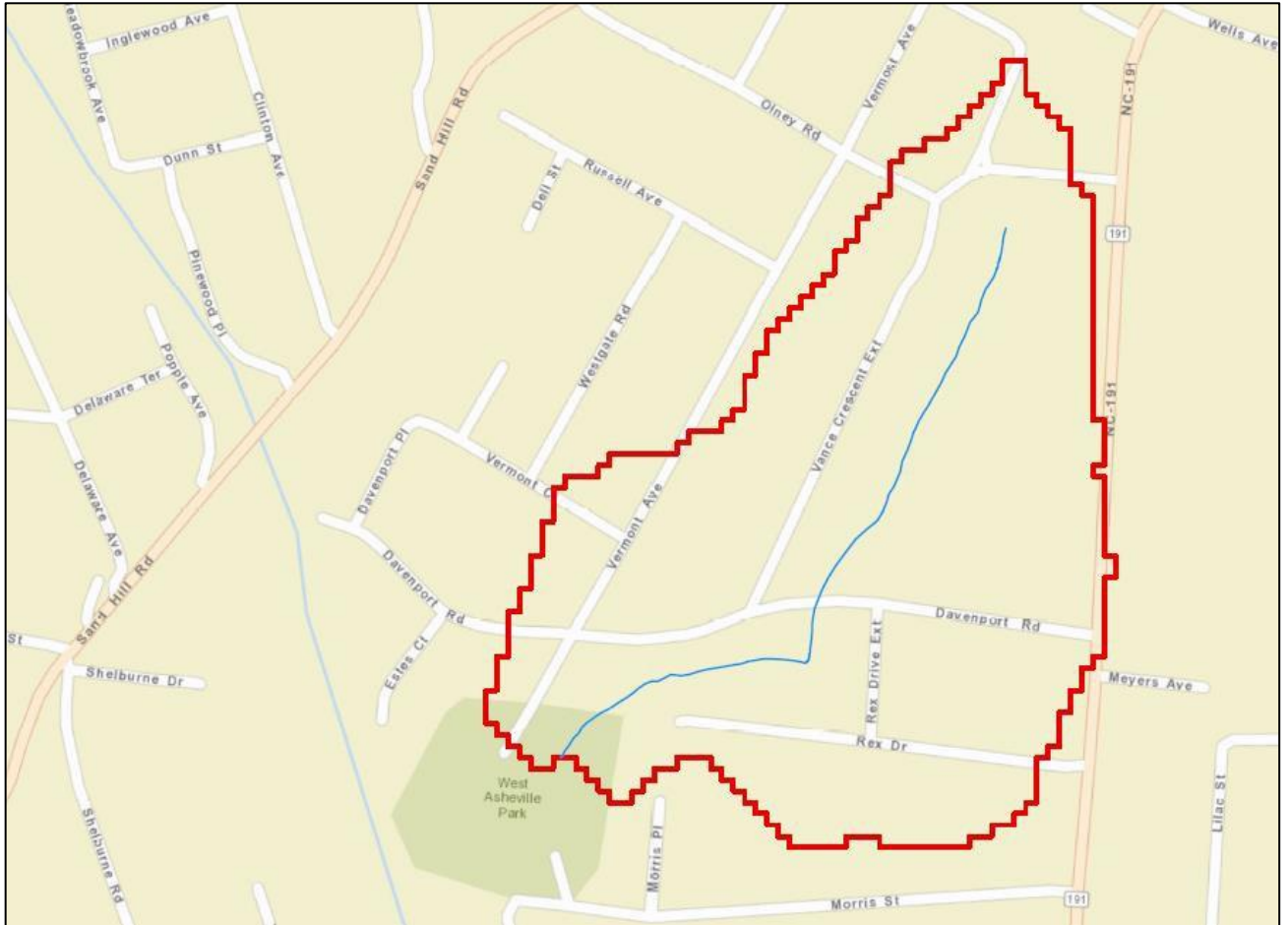
Proposed Names: Wolfe Creek, Garnet Creek, Elliott Creek, Neighborly Creek, Gordon Branch, Robindale Creek

Winner: Gordon Branch won with 62.9% of the vote (Figure 4).

Name Significance: Gordon James Wallace (05/16/86 to 03/26/13) and his family moved into the house on Linden Avenue bordering the creek when he was 9 months old, and he lived in the same house for most of his life. During his childhood he and his friends in the neighborhood loved to play in the creek and the surrounding woods. As a teenager and young adult, he and his friends made the backyard their hangout place also. Gordon's family loved listening to the creek in the evenings when it was dark, and felt like they were far away from the city.

*\*Note: no apostrophe in name to be submitted for approval. Genitive apostrophes prohibited by USGS.*

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**Figure 1. Map of Orchard Creek in West Asheville, N.C. The watershed is outlined in red.**

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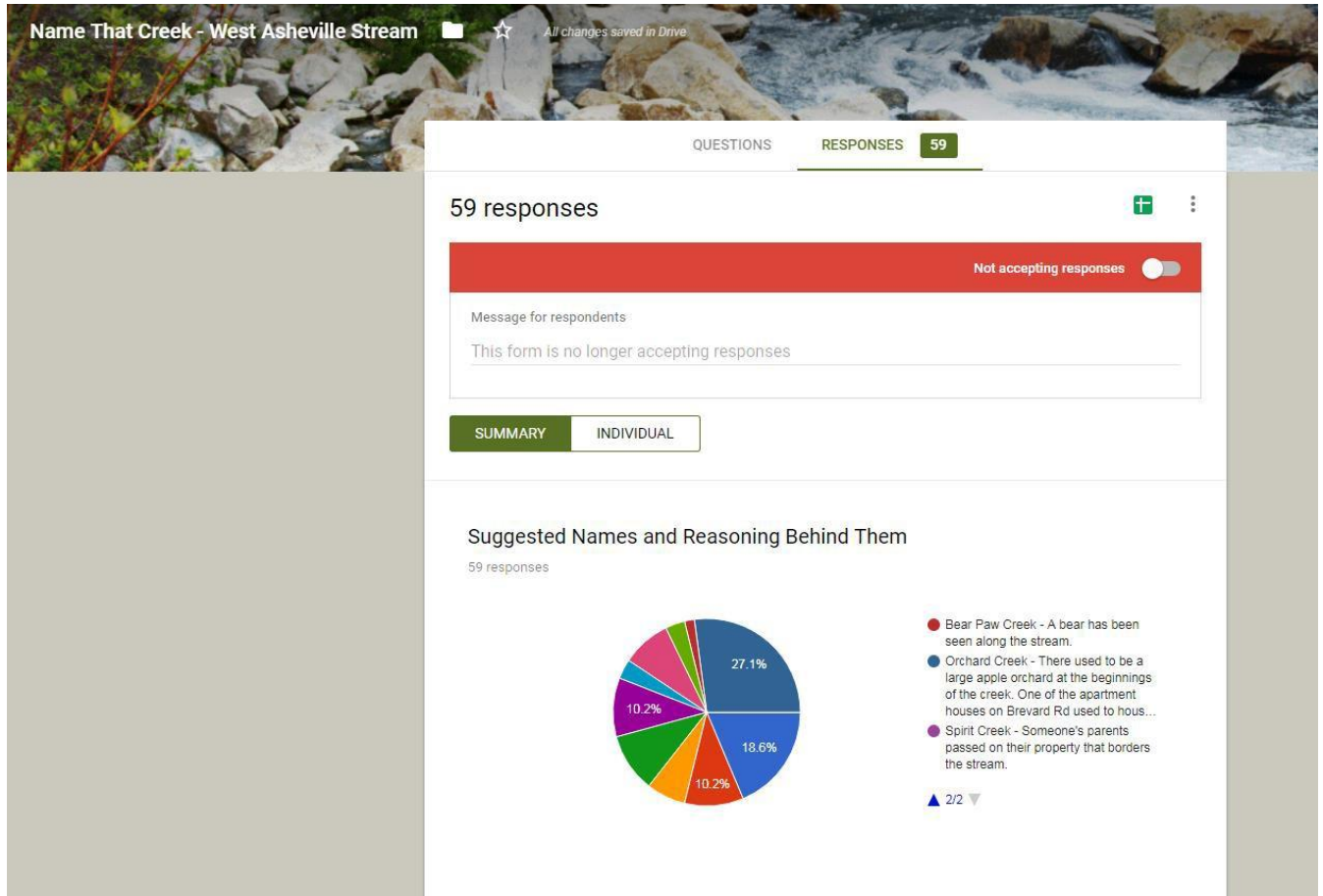
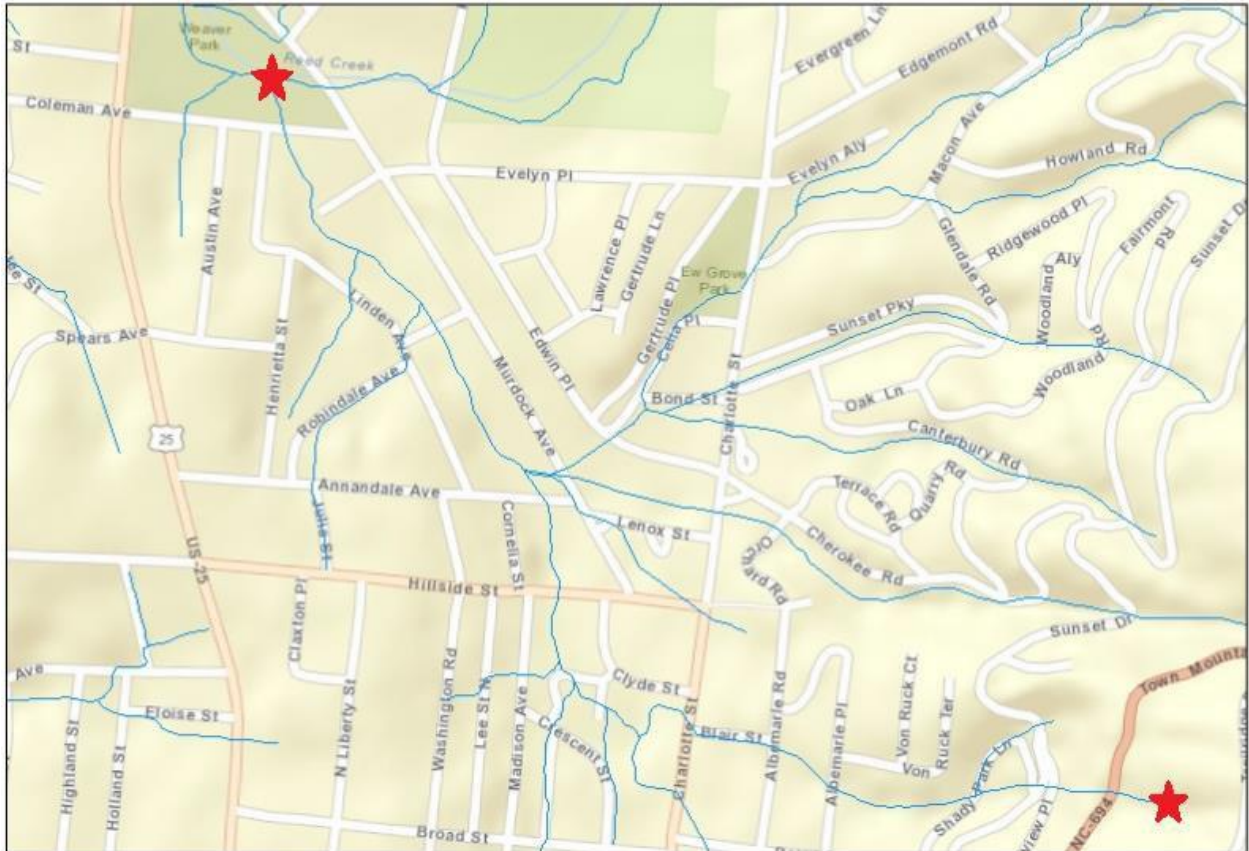


Figure 2. Poll results for Orchard Creek

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**Figure 3. Map of Gordons Branch. Stars indicate where the stream begins above Town Mountain Rd. and where it merges with Reed Creek at Weaver Park.**

# RIVERLINK

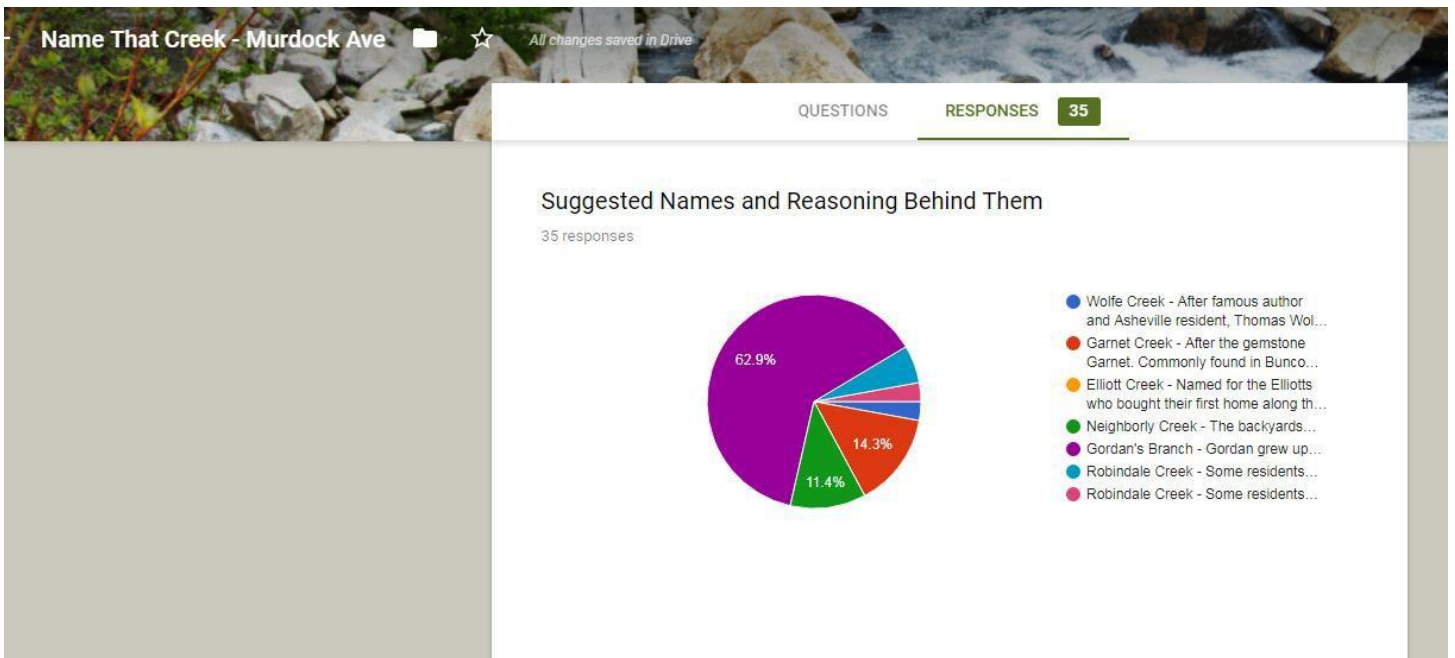


Figure 4. Poll results for Gordons Branch.



RESOLUTION NO. 18- 249

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN UNITED STATES  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY APPLICATION TO NAME A CREEK IN WEST ASHEVILLE  
"ORCHARD CREEK"

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WHEREAS, the City of Asheville believes that a transparent, well-researched and community driven process was performed by RiverLink in efforts to name this creek; and

WHEREAS, The City of Asheville has received a recommendation from the Council Planning & Economic Development Committee to support "Orchard Creek" as the name for this Rhododendron Branch tributary; and

WHEREAS, The City of Asheville recognizes that a local government official must sign the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) form in order for the community's efforts to be successful;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ASHEVILLE  
NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

The City Council authorizes the City Manager to sign the USGS form certifying support for the naming of the creek in West Asheville that begins near Olney Rd. and flows south between Vance Crescent Ext. and Brevard Rd. (Hwy. 191) until it goes underneath Davenport St. and re-emerges to flow alongside Davenport St. before entering West Asheville Park where it joins Rhododendron Creek as "Orchard Creek".

Read, approved and adopted this 25th day of September, 2018.

Magdalen Bureson  
City Clerk

Esther E. Hinkle  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

[Signature]  
City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 18- 250

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN UNITED STATES  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY APPLICATION TO NAME A CREEK NORTHEAST IN DOWNTOWN  
ASHEVILLE "GORDON'S BRANCH"

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WHEREAS, the City of Asheville believes that a transparent, well-researched and community driven process was performed by RiverLink in efforts to name this creek; and


WHEREAS, The City of Asheville has received a recommendation from the Council Planning & Economic Development Committee to support "Gordon's Branch" as the name for this Rhododendron Branch tributary; and

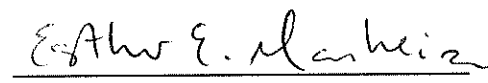
WHEREAS, The City of Asheville recognizes that a local government official must sign the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) form in order for the community's efforts to be successful;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ASHEVILLE  
NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

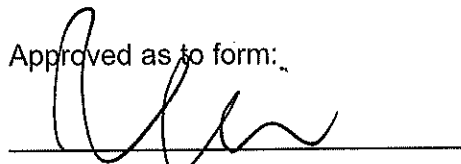
The City Council authorizes the City Manager to sign the USGS form certifying support for the naming of the creek in northeast of downtown Asheville, NC near Town Mountain Rd. (NC-694) and flows west to Charlotte St., where it crosses and begins to flow northwest crossing Hillside St. and Annandale Ave. and then flows between Linden Ave. on the west and Murdock Ave. to the east before reaching Weaver Park where it joins Reed Creek as "Gordon's Branch".

Read, approved and adopted this 25th day of September, 2018.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

Approved as to form:..

  
City Attorney