



Meeting Agenda

Sustainability Commission

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Friday, January 16, 2026

8:00 AM

Admin 2-B

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing [PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov](mailto:PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov) before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

**NEW BUSINESS**

2. Consideration of Electing Chair and Vice Chair
3. City Acquisition of 171 Hillhaven Lane (Ropers Knob Park) Update
4. Discussion Of Surplus Solar Panels
5. Discussion of Litter Surveys

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**City of Franklin  
Meeting Minutes  
Sustainability Commission**



**November 14, 2025**

**8:00 AM**

**Administration Conference Room 2B**

**Members Present:** Anna Timme, April Eaton, Christina Christiansen, Jim Mahurin, Brian Stone, Keith Gordon, Meredith Zehnder

**Members Absent:** Al Pramuk, Alderman Beverly Burger

**Staff Present:** Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Kelly Dannenfelser, Trevor Hannon, Bill Squires, Katie Walker, Elizabeth Bulay

**Citizens Present:** John Kell, Mark Melvinchenko, Ron Merville

**Citizen Comments:**

John Kell shared that on October the 18<sup>th</sup> they had a “Pull Plants, Do Good” event along Mary’s Chapel Creek at Franklin First United Methodist Church. With 25 volunteers they removed 300 feet of invasives and planted 240 wildflower plugs. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Liberty Elementary, they are installing a pollinator garden from 9:30-12:30. This is a joint venture with the Tennessee Environmental Council and TVA. There will be an additional event like this scheduled in Nashville in the Spring at Whitsitt Elementary. Additionally, he spoke about the Bird City Network and a steering committee he is now involved in. They will be meeting monthly.

**Approval of September 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the September 12, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, by Brian Stone, seconded by April Eaton. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Announcements:**

- Andrew Orr shared the following announcements:
  - In September, we partnered with Natchez Glen and refreshed the Fire 1 Pollinator Gardens. There were 500 plugs installed over three different beds. Also, one of the commitments of being a part of Bee City, is having an integrated pest management plan. We have been coordinating internally on the IPM plan. Gresham Smith has offered to sponsor a pollinator garden in Bicentennial Park.
  - There is a Transit Masterplan update underway and there is a survey still open for the community to share their input. We wrapped up our community outreach events in early October. The next step is to have a goals and objectives strategy session with the Franklin Transit Authority and there will be another outreach push in early 2026 to Spring of 2026 with the project wrapping up by June. Andrew also encouraged the use of the Franklin Trolleys including the pilot route running 11-2pm from Downtown to the Factory.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION





- Every Commission is required to provide an annual written report to BOMA. He and Christina put one together and it will be on November 25<sup>th</sup> BOMA agenda.
- Lastly, he recognized Bill Squires as the commission's new City Attorney liaison.
- Elizabeth Bulay shared that there is currently an update being made to the City's Preservation Plan. There will be two Community Workshop Socials on Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at the Main Barn at Harlinsdale to review strategies the consultant team has put together and to gather community feedback.

### **Consideration of 2026 Meeting Schedule and Topics**

Andrew Orr introduced the meeting schedule for 2026 and pointed out the date for the January meeting was pushed to the 16<sup>th</sup> to provide a buffer from the Holidays. Topics for the year will include bee city, solar and litter surveys. He asked for input on additional topics the commission would like to see covered. Brian Stone inquired about a possible field trip for next year. Andrew explained that the previous field trip to John Kell's neighborhood was very lightly attended and an additional trip to the recycling facility had to be cancelled but we can continue to explore these opportunities. Anna Timme requested clarification on if there would be a holiday breakfast this year. Andrew confirmed that it will be the second Friday in December and that the meeting invite would be sent out. Chair Christina Christiansen requested that an invite be sent to Mayor Moore.

### **Discussion of Solar Expansion Project Update**

Ron Merville of Energy Source Partners provided an update on the status of the Solar Expansion Project. There was a recent meeting with Tennessee Solar Energy Industrial Association where a lot was learned. He explained it has been a very interesting year having to navigate the many regulation changes and Presidential directives. Demolition can now start anytime and the construction drawings will be submitted the week of November 17. There are two options for the start or construction. They can either start construction the beginning of December or Safe Harbor the project and it will probably be a combination of both options.

Keith Gordon asked what the commercial operation date of the project is.

Ron Merville estimated it will take 4-5 months and will be completed in early 2026.

Brian Stone asked what the City has planned for the existing panels that are being replaced and if they will be recycled.

Ron Merville explained that they have offered the old panels to the City but a plan has not yet been developed.

Andrew Orr stated he is not aware of any immediate desire by the City. He also questioned whether we are still on track to use batteries.





Ron Merville replied that we are still on track to use batteries and this was not affected by the recent regulation changes.

There was additional discussion after the presentation regarding how to use the old panels. Keith Gordon and Brian Stone would like to see them used by the Franklin Special School District on roofs that are newer and not needing to be replaced in the near future. Ron Merville explained that the existing racking can be re-used, and the cost for set up would be minimal. He is happy to donate them as part of the partnership.

This discussion concluded with Andrew Orr explaining that this item will be added to the next agenda to for discussion after work is done to establish interest in the donated panels.

**Group Photo**

**NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN**

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM with a motion from April Eaton and a second from Keith Gordon. The motion carried with all in favor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





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**File #: 21-01661**

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**DATE:** 1/16/2026

**TO:** Sustainability Commission

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:**

Consideration of Electing Chair and Vice Chair

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Sustainability Commission concerning

**BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:**

(Brief description of the history and supporting information regarding the item, including an explanation of why staff is recommending the action.)

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

(Include the cost of the item, how the item will be funded, which fund it will come from, if there are grants or loans involved and whether the item is included in the current approved budget.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that (item name) be (action)



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**File #: 21-01**

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**DATE:** 1/16/2026

**TO:** Sustainability Commission

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:**

City Acquisition of 171 Hillhaven Lane (Ropers Knob Park) Update

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Sustainability Commission concerning

**BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:**

(Brief description of the history and supporting information regarding the item, including an explanation of why staff is recommending the action.)

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

(Include the cost of the item, how the item will be funded, which fund it will come from, if there are grants or loans involved and whether the item is included in the current approved budget.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that (item name) be (action)

# Ropers Knob Location Map

## 171 Hillhaven Lane Acquisition

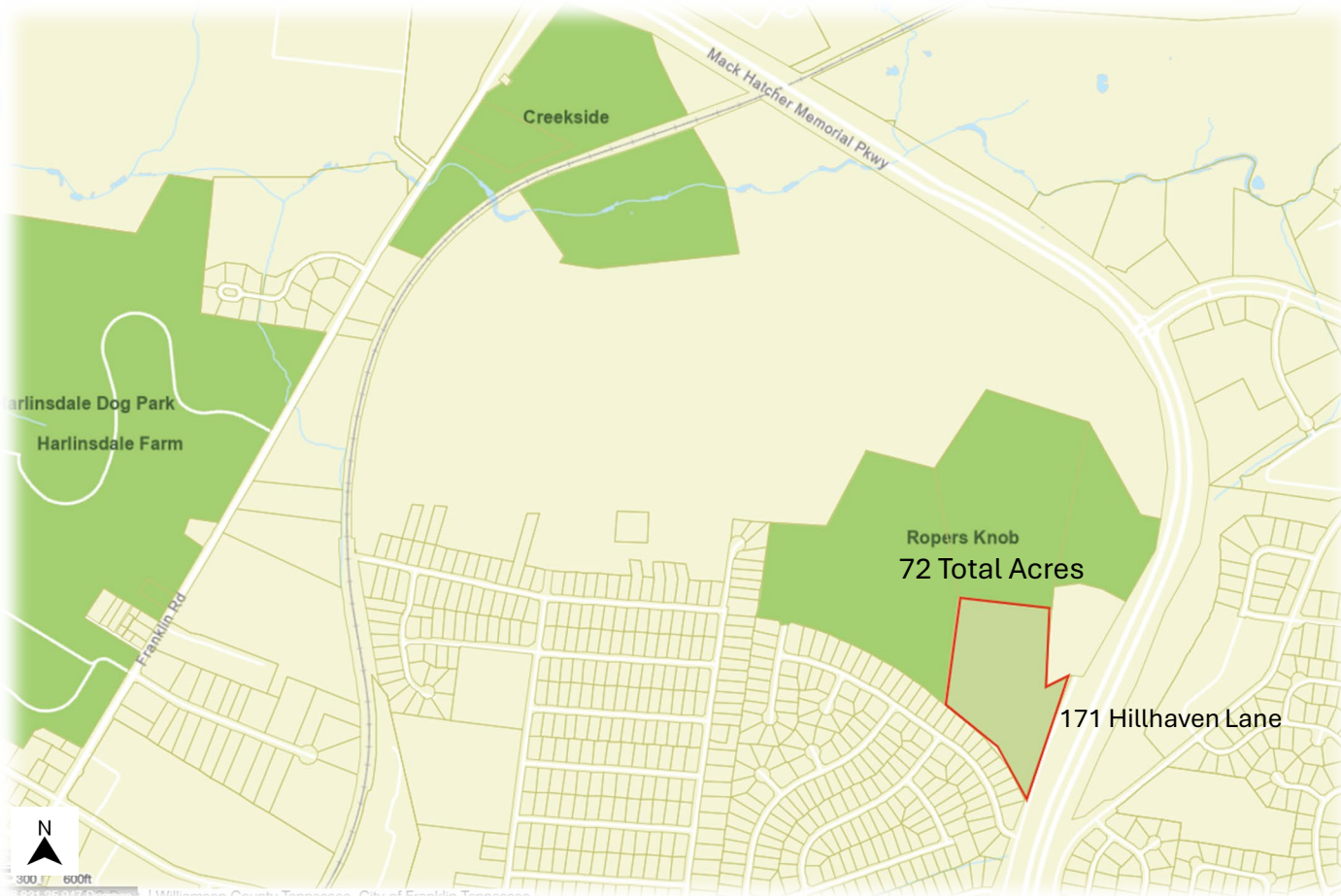


Figure 3. Sketch of Roper's Knob by William Merrill (1863).





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**File #: 21-01660**

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**DATE:** 1/16/2026

**TO:** Sustainability Commission

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion Of Surplus Solar Panels

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Sustainability Commission concerning

**BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:**

(Brief description of the history and supporting information regarding the item, including an explanation of why staff is recommending the action.)

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

(Include the cost of the item, how the item will be funded, which fund it will come from, if there are grants or loans involved and whether the item is included in the current approved budget.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that (item name) be (action)



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**File #: 21-01662**

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**DATE:** 1/16/2026

**TO:** Sustainability Commission

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion of Litter Surveys

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Sustainability Commission concerning

**BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:**

(Brief description of the history and supporting information regarding the item, including an explanation of why staff is recommending the action.)

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

(Include the cost of the item, how the item will be funded, which fund it will come from, if there are grants or loans involved and whether the item is included in the current approved budget.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that (item name) be (action)

**AREA 1: West Franklin**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mack Hatcher Parkway NW Ext. (Hillsboro Road to 96W)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**96 West (Mack Hatcher to Westhaven BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**96 West (Mack Hatcher Parkway to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave North)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Del Rio Pike (Hillsboro Road to Carlisle Lane intersection)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Carlisle Lane (Del Rio Pike to 96 West)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Roy F. Alley Court (Carlisle Lane intersection to Franklin Christian Academy)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Del Rio Pike/Cotton Lane (Carlisle Lane to Fieldstone Parkway intersection)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

## AREA 2: Southwest Franklin

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scorer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Columbia Avenue (Five Points to Downs BLVD)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### Columbia Avenue/Columbia Pike (Downs BLVD to Winstead Elementary)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### Carters Creek Pike (Downs BLVD to Horton Lane)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### Horton Lane (Carters Creek Pike to Boyd Mill Ave)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### West Main Street (Downs BLVD to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### Natchez Street (West Main Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Ave S)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### Culberson BLVD and Shawnee Drive (Boyd Mill Ave to Shawnee Drive to Edgewood BLVD to Brookwood Ave to West Main St)

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 3: North Franklin**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hillsboro Road (96 W to Del Rio Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Hillsboro Road (Del Rio Pike to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Hillsboro Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Fieldstone Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Spencer Creek Road (Fieldstone Parkway to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Mack Hatcher Parkway (Hillsboro Road to Franklin Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Franklin Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Mallory Station Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Franklin Road (Mallory Station Road to Moores Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 4: Cool Springs**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mallory Station Road (Franklin Road to Mallory Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Mallory Lane (Mallory Station Road to Moores Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Moores Lane (Mallory Station Road to Carothers Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Bakers Bridge Ave (Carothers Parkway to Seaboard Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Seaboard Lane (Bakers Bridge Ave to Aspen Grove Drive to Cool Springs BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Cool Springs BLVD (Aspen Grove Drive to Carothers Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Carothers Parkway (Cool Springs BLVD to Bakers Bridge Ave)**

0      1      2      3      4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Cool Springs Galleria Mall Parking Lot (drive around the perimeter of the Galleria)**

0      1      2      3      4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 5: McEwen**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**McEwen Drive (Cool Springs BLVD to Cool Springs BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**East McEwen Drive (Cool Springs BLVD to Wilson Pike) (Under Construction)**

0 — 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 —

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Oxford Glen Drive (E. McEwen Drive to Liberty Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Liberty Pike (Oxford Glen Drive to Mallory Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Mallory Lane (Liberty Pike to Jordan Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Jordan Road and Aspen Grove Dr (Take Jordan Road to Aspen Grove Drive to Cool Springs BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 6: Murfreesboro Road Corridor**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Murfreesboro Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to North Royal Oaks)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**North Royal Oaks BLVD (Murfreesboro Road to Liberty Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**South Royal Oaks BLVD (Murfreesboro Road to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Mack Hatcher Parkway (South Royal Oaks BLVD to Murfreesboro Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Southwinds Drive and left on Oak Meadow Drive (terminating on South Royal Oaks BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Oak Meadow Drive (South Royal Oaks BLVD to the Elk Lodge)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Murfreesboro Road (North Royal Oaks to Clovercroft Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Clovercroft Road (Murfreesboro Road to Wilson Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Oxford Glen Drive (Clovercroft to Murfreesboro Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Murfreesboro Road (Oxford Glen Drive to Clovercroft Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Carothers Parkway (Murfreesboro Road south to Harpeth River Bridge before entering Ladd Park)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Carothers Parkway (Harpeth River Bridge to Long Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Long Lane (Carothers Parkway to Bagsby Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 7: South Franklin**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mack Hatcher Parkway (Columbia Ave to South Royal Oaks Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Lewisburg Pike (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Donelson Creek Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Lewisburg Pike (Donelson Creek Parkway to Southvale BLVD)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Goose Creek Bypass (Lewisburg Pike to Long Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Peytonsville Road (Long Lane to Pratt Lane)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Long Lane (TA Truck Stop to Carothers Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Peytonsville Road (Lewisburg Pike to Five Mile Crossing)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 8: Central Franklin**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scorer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (South Margin Street to North Margin Street)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (South Margin Street to North Margin Street)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Franklin Road (1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Mack Hatcher Parkway (Franklin Road to Murfreesboro Road)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Murfreesboro Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Public Square)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Liberty Pike (Franklin Road to Liberty Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Liberty Pike (Franklin Road to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Ralston Lane (Murfreesboro Road to Liberty Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Eddy Lane (Murfreesboro Road to Liberty Pike)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Lewisburg Ave (South Margin Street to Railroad Tracks)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**Lewisburg Pike (Railroad Tracks to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0    1    2    3    4

Notable Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA 3: North Franklin**

Date: March 20, 2025 Scorer's Name: Christina Christiansen

**Hillsboro Road (96 W to Del Rio Pike)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions minimal - nothing notable

**Hillsboro Road (Del Rio Pike to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions a couple of plastic water bottles & plastic bags

**Hillsboro Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Fieldstone Parkway)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions a lot of trash near Harpeth River/Fulton Green Ln. - otherwise, clean!

**Spencer Creek Road (Fieldstone Parkway to Mack Hatcher Parkway)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions beer cans / plastic bag / paper along tree line only

**Mack Hatcher Parkway (Hillsboro Road to Franklin Road)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions some trash (in front of BGA & church); plastic bags in front of rec center; bottles @ Spencer Creek intersection

**Franklin Road (Mack Hatcher Parkway to Mallory Station Road)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions paper / trash in ditch; mulch bag; cardboard boxes - all primarily one area near S. Beny's Chapel

**Franklin Road (Mallory Station Road to Moores Lane)**

0 1 2 3 4  
Notable Conditions trash in ditch along all tree lines

# Litter Scale Descriptions

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Score	Instructions for Scores	Instructions for Scores
<b>0 “No Litter”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtually no litter</li> </ul>	<p>Virtually no litter can be observed in the Site.</p>
<b>1 “Minimal Litter”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or 2 small items in a city block or equivalent</li> <li>• Collected quickly by 1 individual</li> <li>• Generally neat and tidy</li> </ul>	<p>The scorer may see one or two small items in a city block, or equivalent. Any litter seen could be collected quickly by one individual. The entire Site has a generally neat and tidy appearance.</p>
<b>2 “Slightly Littered”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small amount of litter</li> <li>• Eye is not continually grabbed by littered items</li> <li>• Site cleaned in a short period of time</li> </ul>	<p>Litter is obvious, but the eye is not continually grabbed by littered items. The Site could be cleaned in a short period of time.</p>
<b>3 “Littered”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible litter catches your eye frequently</li> <li>• Organized effort for removal</li> <li>• Considerable effort to clean</li> </ul>	<p>Visible litter catches your eye frequently throughout the Site. An organized effort for removal is required with considerable effort to clean up the Site.</p>
<b>4 “Extremely Littered”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous amount of litter</li> <li>• Litter first thing noticed</li> <li>• Might include an illegal dump</li> <li>• Equipment may be required for removal</li> <li>• Strong impression of a lack of concern about litter</li> </ul>	<p>A continuous amount of litter is one of the first things noticed about the Site. Illegal dumpsites might be observed. Equipment may be required to clean up. There is a strong impression of a lack of concern about litter in the Site.</p>