







# Stream Watch for Black Creek

The technical team sees two potential volunteer opportunities for data collection on Black Creek.

- 1) *One-day Stream Walk Data Collection:* As part of the watershed monitoring effort, the technical team will host a one-day stream walk to assess the physical health of Black Creek and provide baseline data on geomorphology (*Geomorphology* is the branch of geology dealing with surface land features and the processes that create and change them)
- 1) *Regular stream walks of small areas:* This would involve volunteers being assigned to a stream segment to periodically walk, observe, and report anything unusual to the tech team and/or BCWA

## What is a Streamwatch program?

Basically a group of citizens who become the local experts on their streams' dimensions, history and wildlife, and act on behalf of the streams' best interests. The activities undertaken by Streamwatch groups and amount of time committed vary depending on who is involved and what they want to do. Typical activities include walking the stream periodically to observe any changes or unusual occurrences, conducting stream clean-ups, conducting educational workshops.



Participants decided that the one-day stream walk would involve recruiting different participants than for a long-term Streamwatch group. Since we want to host the stream walk data collection soon, we'll first start planning for that event. A minimum of 20 participants would be needed, although more would be useful. They will work in teams of two, collecting data on tributaries and the mainstem of Black Creek.

The following groups were suggested as audiences from which to recruit:

- ◆ Rotarians, who won't likely be involved with regular watches but may participate in a one-time walk
- ◆ Environmental educators- provide EE credits
- ◆ Homeowners Associations in the watershed
- ◆ Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- ◆ Green Hope High School science classes
- ◆ Cary Academy- they are already collecting data

## How to advertise?

- ◆ Matt Flynn offered to place an add in the paper
- ◆ Send notice to Environmental Ed listserve
- ◆ Send notice to NC3 list (consists of Homeowners Associations in the watershed)
- ◆ Other suggestions are welcomed!

## Training volunteers

The group decided a training session could be held on a weekday afternoon, with the stream walk happening on the following Saturday. The technical team from NCSU will develop a data collection protocol and worksheet for volunteers to use, and will develop an appropriate training session. As an introduction, Barbara Doll, Stream Restoration Institute, will present a basic overview of stream geomorphology at the March 26 BCWA meeting.

## Date for stream walk

The tech team would like the data ASAP. BCWA suggested spring. Target date is late April/early May.

## Action items:

***NCSU will develop a data collection protocol, and set up a training session. If anyone is interested in being involved in setting up the protocol, please contact us.***

***Marketing will begin in late March. NCSU will create a flier for distribution, and will work with Town of Cary to post an advertisement in Cary News.***



**News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC**

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**Black Creek Watershed as Potential Aquatic Center Site**

The Town owns property across from North Cary Park, which is under consideration as a possible site for the Town's proposed Aquatic Center. Christy asked the group if this was a topic that they wanted to discuss. A participant expressed concern that the site has steep slopes which would be disrupted by intense development. Another questioned whether other sites were being investigated. The exact location(s) under consideration were not known by participants.

Dr. Gregory suggested waiting until the Town had announced the potential sites, so that we could speak to it in a professional manner. The group agreed.


**Update from Town of Cary since meeting:**

The Town Council's Operations Committee approved a site analysis and selection process for the aquatic center. The staff report is online at <http://www.townofcary.org/op/pr07-014.htm>

In the report, Town of Cary staff recommend that a Request for Proposals be issued and design consultants be selected by April 2007, with site analysis, selection, and site approval occurring by August 2007. Approval of a Master Plan is suggested for October 2007.

Public involvement during this time period will include:

1. Public input meeting to comment on the site selection.
2. PRCR Advisory Board review and recommendation of site.
3. Public input meeting to refine programming.
4. PRCR Advisory Board review and recommendation of Master Plan.

Several BCWA members have expressed an interest in discussing the issue, so we have included it on the agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for February 26. 

**December 4 Meeting Participants**

Patrick Beggs, *WECO; NCSU*  
Drew Cade, *Wake County Parks*  
Dan Clinton, *Town of Cary*  
Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*  
Bill Dupont, *North Raleigh resident*  
Matt Flynn, *Town of Cary*  
Scott Gilchrest, *Royal Oaks resident*  
Shelby Gull Laird, *NCSU & NC Div. Water Resources*  
Jim Gregory, *NCSU*  
Marilyn Grolitzer, *North Raleigh resident*  
Elena Horvath, *Silverton resident*  
Pat Hudson, *Cary Rotary*  
Eric Kulz, *Regional NCDWQ, North Harrison Trace resident*  
Grace Lawrence, *Wake County Cooperative Extension*  
Heidi Maloy, *Cary Academy*  
William Moore, *Royal Oaks resident*  
Bob Morris, *Silverton HOA, Cary Greenways Committee*  
Christy Perrin, *WECO, NCSU; Windchase at Beechtree resident*