



THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

August 2009

Visit the project website at www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek

Black Creek Highlights June– August '09

The Black Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) met last on May 18 at Town Hall. A summary of that discussion is included within. Thanks to Charles Brown for securing the location.

The next BCWA meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 31 at Page Walker Community Center, Academy St.

The Black Creek Watershed Association meets on the last Monday of the month as needed.



Black Creek Watershed Report Now Online

A final report for the Black Creek Watershed planning and monitoring effort was completed for NC Division of Water Quality and US EPA in June. This document is posted on our website.

If you are interested in a hard copy and are unable to print it, please let us know and we will provide you with a printed copy. The appendices to this document make it a large file (and a fascinating read).



We will use this document as the basis for our watershed plan, and for developing educational outreach materials.

Next meeting:

Monday, August 31

6:15-8:30 p.m.

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

**Page-Walker
Community Center**

Agenda:

- ◆ Finalize Citizen Advisory Committee application & topic
- ◆ Discuss potential public locations for BMP retrofits

Searching for stormwater retro-fits

NCSU and Town of Cary staff are heading out to look for potential stormwater best management practice retrofits on Wednesday, August 26. We will be looking for sites that can intercept runoff coming from roads, parking lots, and buildings. Potential projects may include bioretention (rain gardens), rain water cisterns, level spreaders, and stormwater wetlands.

sites, we'll evaluate them for how they meet our project criteria. Some criteria include:

- ◆ Potential reduction in stormwater volume
- ◆ Opportunity for education and demonstration

We'll present our findings for discussion at the August 31 meeting.



We will look for as many potential sites as possible. After finding a number of

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Clearing trees in utility easements

In May, we continued discussion regarding concerns about tree clearing of sewage lines easements in the watershed. Some watershed residents have noted clearing in excess of what they had seen before, and also expressed concern about resulting erosion, and a desire to have notice ahead of time regarding clearing. Charles Brown followed up with Bob Bilodeau, Operations Division Manager with Dept. of Public Works and Utilities, Town of Cary. He provided a copy of the Standard Procedure for Easement Clearing Operations. The answers to BCWA questions below were provided by Charles and the Standard Procedure document.

◆ *What easement widths are required around sewer lines?*

Since an interceptor line, which is a large sewer line, is along Black Creek, the easement width needs to be wide enough to allow work on it. Twenty feet minimum is required for this easement, other easements for smaller lines require 10 feet minimum cleared easement. Manholes require 5 ft. minimum.

◆ *What is the schedule for clearing in Black Creek? Is it completed?*

In 2008, 11,415 linear feet was cut/mowed along the Black Creek easement, and 4,200 was completed by contractors in June 2009. The remaining 6,300 feet are scheduled to be cut in October by Town crews. In 2010 there are 53,800 linear feet scheduled for removing along Black Creek. Easement maintenance is scheduled every 2 years.

◆ *Can neighbors/homeowners associations be given advanced notice of clearing?*

Citizens whose property borders the easement receive hand delivered letters two weeks prior to flagging or painting of easements. Operations begin a minimum of 6 weeks following delivery of the letters to allow time to answer citizen questions and allow citizens time to prepare for clearing operations (personal property removal, etc.). Letters include why the easement must be cleared, a time frame, who is doing the work, and a contact point.

◆ *Does stormwater flow into manholes and cause overflows of sewage?*

The term for stormwater entering sanitary sewer lines is *inflow and infiltration (I & I)*. Stormwater can enter into manholes, and most pipes can handle the flow. Most manholes either have small holes or none at all. They are raised to keep the holes above the waterline of a 100 year flood, and to vent gases.

For more information on easement clearing operations, contact Bob Bilodeau at 469-4055.

A Citizen Advisory Group?

BCWA members have suggested that we submit a request to the Town of Cary to become an official Citizen Advisory Group. If approved, this group would then investigate an issue with staff assistance, and bring their recommendations to the Town Council.

In determining what issue to propose, Christy suggested investigating the “no net increase” of stormwater runoff recommendation in the watershed plan as an issue to investigate. This recommendation has no specific action items for achieving it in the plan.

Some members at the May meeting suggested that the

issue be framed broader, as a way to get the management plan in front of Council. A suggestion was made to use the objectives in the watershed plan matrix and see if there are Town policies in the Land Development Ordinance that address the objectives.

Citizen Advisory Groups are limited to 12 people. The group can include the most active of the BCWA members or other interested people. Involving large property owners, and a developer were suggested.

We will finalize this application at the August meeting.

Christy Perrin
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Big Sweep for Black Creek Fall

Big Sweep for Black Creek will be held on **Saturday, October 3**. This year the Big Sweep will be sponsored by three local Rotary Clubs, including our regular sponsor, Cary Rotary, as well as Cary Page Rotary and Cary Central Rotary.



The new bridge to Weston Manor took a beating during a springtime storm.

Black Creek Monitoring Station

The equipment for the monitoring station has been repaired and is ready for reinstallation to track creek flow data. However, trees have fallen into the creek just upstream of the station. We prefer to remove these trees before re-installing the equipment in order to protect the equipment from being damaged during future storm events. If anyone is able to help with tree removal, please contact Christy.

Kudos to Beechtree Homeowners Association

After the Beechtree HOA Board saw a presentation on the Black Creek watershed plan and learned about the fecal coliform problem, they immediately purchased several dog waste stations and installed them on the Beechtree greenway trail. The Board also expressed interest in finding locations on Beechtree right of way for stormwater BMPs.

If anyone would like help presenting at their own HOA meeting, contact Christy. She can provide you with the presentation or possibly join you at the meeting to help give it.



A passerby learns about the monitoring station from Dr. Dan Hitchcock.