



# THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

August 2010

Visit the project website at [www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek](http://www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek)

## Black Creek Highlights

The Black Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) met last on May 25 at Page Walker community Center. Since then an update was provided to Beechtree HOA's annual meeting.

The project team has also been busy working with Wake County Schools and West Cary Middle to design and plan raingardens. A sketch is included in this

newsletter and posted on the Black Creek Blog for closer inspection. Construction is proceeding, with a volunteer planting day

**Saturday, August 21 at 9 a.m.**

We'll plant one of the 2 raingardens on the 21st. A second volunteer planting day is TBA. **Next BCWA meeting is on August 24 at the school.**

The Black Creek Watershed Association meets on the date of their choice as needed. Check the website for current meeting times.

Next meeting:

**Tuesday, August 24**

**6:15-8:30 p.m.**

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

**West Cary Middle School**

**1000 Evans Road**

Agenda:

- ◆ Tour the new raingardens at the school
- ◆ Plan the first community workshop for the Less Rain Down the Drain campaign

## Summary from last BCWA meeting

### Monitoring effort

Dan Hitchcock explained the monitoring goals of the project. We want to establish a relationship between rainfall and streamflow in the creek before retrofit changes are made. This will help answer the question, "what % of rainfall goes into the creek?", and to update our watershed plan with more specific runoff reduction goals. He shared some preliminary data—the creek was at its highest point since reinstalling the monitoring station in March at 3.5 feet.

Suggestions from group:

- ◆ See if there is a stream in Umstead Park to use as an undeveloped reference stream to compare with Black Creek.
- ◆ Ask Johnny Boggs, US Forest Service, if he has research on an appropriate reference stream.

The group discussed focus areas for residential BMPs. Dan suggested modeling subwatersheds to estimate rainfall entering the creek from them.

Comments from participants:

- ◆ Behind Silvercliff Dr., there is a currently dry eroded creek. A trail accesses it from Cary's property.
- ◆ Silverton HOA wants an access to the greenway from the Cary property.
- ◆ Silverton and Beechtree HOAs are interested in working with us
- ◆ Can we construct BMPs along Town of Cary easement lines?
- ◆ Apartment complexes were suggested as difficult to work with
- ◆ Model runoff for the Town Hall campus watershed

### Action items:

*Dan will look into modeling runoff from selected subwatersheds*  
*Amin will create a GIS layer to highlight HOA-owned properties*  
*Christy will ask Jean Spooner, Umstead Coalition, and Johnny Boggs, USFS,*

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Black Creek highlights	1
Summary of last meeting	1
West Cary Middle BMPs	2
Meeting roster	2

about potential undeveloped reference streams to use as comparison to Black Creek.

**Less rain down the drain campaign**

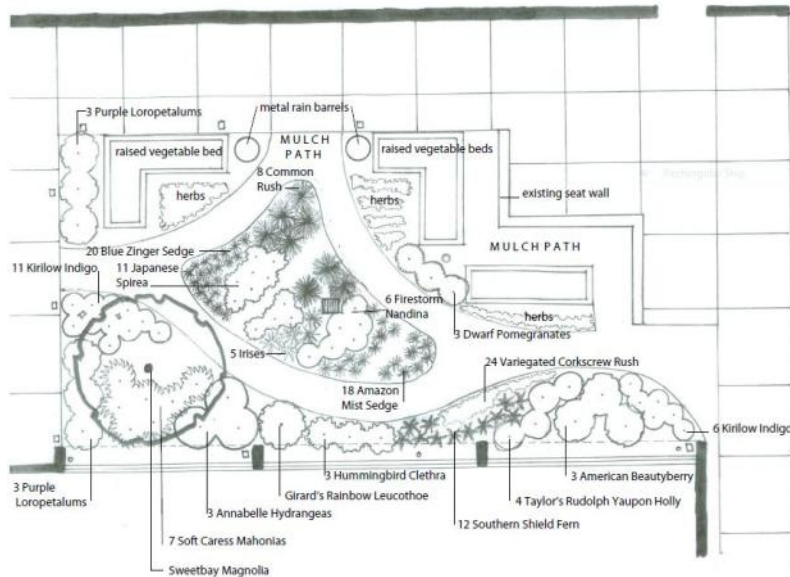
Christy created a draft application for landowners to complete to request assistance with stormwater retrofits, which have been called “rainscapes”. Participants agreed to fill out applications as a test run, and provide feedback on the application to make it more user-friendly. They suggested creating an online application in addition to the printed copy.

Next steps for the campaign in 2010:

- ◆ Finalize rainscapes application for landowners
- ◆ Create a factsheet about rainscapes
- ◆ Schedule a community workshop to provide an overview of rainscapes and recruit landowners
- ◆ Organize volunteers to evaluate sites for rainscape suitability
- ◆ Create a website that will include information about what the rainscapes are and how to install them
- ◆ Recruit volunteers to install rainscapes



**West Cary Middle School BMPS**



Cary Middle School Interior Courtyard Rain Garden

**May Meeting Participants**

- Liz Adams, *Silverton, Environmental Advisory Board*
- Patrick Beggs, *WECO; NCSU*
- Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
- Susan Davenport, *Beechtree/ Cary PRCR Advisory Board*
- Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*
- Dan Hitchcock, *Clemson*
- Bianca Howard, *watershed resident*
- Bob Morris, *Silverton, TOC Greenway Committee*
- Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*

We are excited to put our first Black Creek watershed stormwater retrofits in in the ground! We have welcomed Anne Spafford, NCSU Professor of Horticulture and author of *Raingardening in the South*, to our project team to provide planting designs and help locate plants. Cary Rotary is supplying volunteers and possibly some funds to help. NCSU partners met last month with Wake County Schools Facilities and West Cary Middle School faculty to finalize raingarden designs at West Cary Middle School and plan for construction. After putting the excavation out to bid, a contractor was selected and ground has been broken as this goes to print. The raingardens should be almost complete by the next BCWA meeting on Aug. 24!

Phone: 919-515-4542  
 christy\_perrin@ncsu.edu  
 patrick\_beggs@ncsu.edu  
 www.ncsu.edu/WECO

