



THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

May 2010

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

Black Creek Highlights April-May

The Black Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) met last on March 30 at Town Hall. Thanks to Charles Brown for securing the location.

Since then we held a springtime Big Sweep for Black Creek on May 1, and Town of Cary Engineering Dept. displayed BCWA brochures and stickers

at their stormwater table at Spring Daze in April.

The Less Rain Down the Drain campaign is forming behind the scenes– please come to our next meeting to review a draft plan on

Tuesday, May 25, at Page Walker Community Center.

Subwatershed Assessment– Focus area 2

As reported in our last newsletter, we have narrowed down to 2 potential areas for intense BMP retrofit focus, education, and monitoring. Amin Davis and Susan Davenport voluntarily tromped through “subwatershed 2” to characterize the subwatershed. This drainage area includes the Arboretum complex, parts of Wessex and Beechtree neighborhoods, and some large forested parcels on Harrison Avenue. They created a powerpoint presentation that is posted on the project website.

In summary, the area drains about 86 acres of highly developed land with single and multi-family, and commercial properties. The un-named tributary is ~1.2 mile long before it joins another tributary draining the Beechtree development. Potential problems found include algae-enriched water near sewer

manholes that could indicate overflow or leaks, pipes draining runoff from individual residences, large stormwater outfalls, roadway culverts that may be impacting aquatic habitat, and a BMP at the headwaters that appeared to be filled with algae. They identified potential watershed improvement projects (WIPs):

- ◆ Investigate roadway culvert improvements
- ◆ Check/repair sewer manhole overflows/leaks- work with Town of Cary Public Works
- ◆ Check retention basin at headwaters (treats the Arboretum’s runoff). This proprietary BMP is in compliance with NCDWQ regulations. The Town of Cary had requested that the bottom of the

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Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.

-Henry David Thoreau

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

Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 25

6:15-8:30 p.m.

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

Page-Walker Community Center

Agenda:

- ◆ Review a draft plan for the Less Rain Down the Drain campaign
- ◆ Updates on monitoring & public BMPs

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Subwatershed Assessment

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constructed wetland be made permeable, but the developer received NCDWQ approval to keep it as concrete. Plants are supposed to be growing in the wetland. The only way to tell if it is contributing excessive nutrients is to test the water immediately downstream. Improvements would have to be made with the landowner's voluntary participation. The BCWA agreed that the EPA grant resources should not go towards a retrofit of this BMP.

- ♦ Residential retrofits- 7 incidences of pipes directly draining runoff from residential properties could be targeted for retrofits, in addition to others where runoff flows to stormwater drains. Two large HOA-owned parcels are located adjacent to the creek as well.

Thanks to Amin and Susan for conducting the assessment!



March Meeting Participants

- Kris Bass, *NCSU*
- Patrick Beggs, *WECO; NCSU*
- Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
- Susan Davenport, *Beechtree/ Cary PRCR Advisory Board*
- Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*
- Pat Hudson, *Cary Rotary*
- Eric Kulz, *North Harrison Trace, NC Div. Water Quality*
- Bob Morris, *Silverton, TOC Greenway Committee*
- Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*
- Chris Walker, *Weston Manor, Cary Rotary*

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West Cary Middle School BMPS

Our first public BMPS are proposed for West Cary Middle School. Participants at the March meeting saw photos of potential BMP locations on the campus. The 2 chosen include a courtyard raingarden retrofit (above) and a grassed parking lot island that will be converted to a raingarden to treat the parking lot runoff (below). An application to construct the raingardens is under review by Wake County Public Schools. Cary Rotary Club is co-sponsoring the project. If approved, the raingardens will be constructed and planted in August of this year. Educational signs will be installed.

