



# THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

November 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 August 24 at West Cary Middle School. Since then, we have completed 2 raingardens, hosted a stream clean up in October, and hosted a very special guest at a ribbon cutting for the West Cary Middle raingardens.

A summary from this meeting and other events held since then is included in this issue of *Wire*.

We kick off our community involvement campaign with our first community workshop on rainscapes for Wessex and Beechtree neighborhoods on **Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Wessex Clubhouse..** RSVP to Christy by Dec. 3.

**The next BCWA meeting is Tues., Nov. 30 at Town Hall.**

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

Next meeting:

**Tuesday, Nov. 30**

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

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

**Town Hall, Dept. of Engineering Conference Room (2nd floor)**

Agenda:

- ◆ Provide feedback on TOC Sustainable Site Design Standards
- ◆ Updates on monitoring and community workshop
- ◆ Introduction to new CWMTF grant objectives

## Reducing runoff from new development

Participants at the August meeting toured the new raingardens, planned for the first community workshop, and discussed ways to protect Black Creek from the impacts of new development.

Some BCWA members expressed concern about impacts of proposed developments including rezoning commercial land for apartments adjacent to Harris Teeter.

Charles Brown clarified the Town's rules for stormwater management (new in the last year). If >9% increase in runoff from a site is predicted from a proposed development, the developer must reduce 85% Total Suspended solids, treat the first inch of runoff, and mitigate the 2,5, and 10-year storms to predevelopment runoff amounts.

The town can provide 50% cost share to landowners who want help with a stormwater problem on their property.

The Town will hire a firm to develop a new Stormwater Master Plan. Dan Clinton is in charge of developing the Request for Proposals. The plan will address impaired waters, such as Black Creek. The Town will hold an open house to get public feedback about what should be included within the plan.

The Town does not have a stormwater utility fee to collect funds for stormwater management activities- these are budgeted through the general fund.

Participants discussed the need to provide developers with incentives to use low impact development design and techniques instead of a stormwater pond. Currently, the town encourages LID in the southwest area through optional density bonuses (near Jordan Lake) . Working with the Planning Department is necessary to adjust policies to incentivize conservation design, reducing imperviousness, and improving onsite stormwater infiltration.



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## West Cary Middle School Raingardens completed and celebrated!

Many volunteers from Cary Rotary, BCWA, and the community participated in a planting day in August to plant the parking lot raingarden. Town of Cary First Station #1 provided water for the plants afterwards and throughout the weekend. The courtyard raingarden (pictured below) was completed shortly afterwards and planted by the NCSU project team and parent volunteers.

The school and local dignitaries were honored with a visit from Alexandra Cousteau and the Expedition Blue Planet Team at a ribbon cutting for the raingardens in September. The event celebrated the collaborative effort to improve Black Creek, and kicked off the *Less Rain Down the Drain* campaign. National Geographic's website highlighted the Blue Planet team's blog post about the Black Creek visit.

Thank you to everyone who helped get our first set of watershed improvement projects in the ground!



### August Meeting Participants

- Kris Bass, *NCSU*
- Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
- Nathan Cobb, *Beechtree resident*
- Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*
- Bianca Howard, *watershed resident*
- Bob Morris, *Silverton, TOC Greenway Committee*
- Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*
- Mitch Woodward, *Wake County Cooperative Extension*

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