



# THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE



News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

May 2011

[www.ncsu.edu/weco/blackcreek](http://www.ncsu.edu/weco/blackcreek)

## Black Creek Highlights

Do not despair, Black Creek fans, we have not left you high and dry, or perhaps more appropriately to our recent weather, low and wet. We have been working behind the scenes since we last met as a group in late 2010, and held our first “rainscapes” community workshop in December.

This newsletter provides a brief summary of that workshop, how we have been following up, and what is to come in the rest of 2011. Our next BCWA meeting is on Monday, May 23.

We hope to see you there!

The Black Creek Watershed Association meets as needed. Check the website for current meeting times.

Next meeting:

**Monday, May 23**

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

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

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

*Agenda:*

- ◆ Update on rainscapes effort, how to get involved
- ◆ Monitoring data update

### 1st Rainscapes Workshop draws a supportive crowd

The first Rainscapes Community workshop was held on December 7, 2010 at the Wessex Clubhouse. The target audience for this workshop was the Beechtree and Wessex neighborhoods, since those areas drain into the tributary chosen for the first rainscape projects.

More than 20 residents from these neighborhoods enjoyed pizza and learned about how rainscape techniques such as raingardens and rainbarrels could reduce stormwater runoff while meeting their own landscaping goals.

Thank you to Mitch Woodward, Wake County Cooperative Extension, for providing an entertaining and informative overview of raingardens and rain harvesting. After learning about the Black Creek project and rainscape techniques, participants divided up into subgroups to identify stormwater issues and potential rainscape sites on maps of the Beechtree and Wessex neighborhoods and resident streams. Participants were invited to submit applications for assistance in installing

rainscapes. Following the meeting we received 9 applications.

Beginning with the applications from landowners in the targeted subwatershed, the project team is contacting landowners to schedule “stormwater audits” of their sites. The audits involve identifying how stormwater moves on the property, and determining what rainscapes could reduce runoff and meet the landowners’ landscaping goals. We will work individually with each landowner to design rainscapes, determine who does what, and schedule installation.

We need to install at least 24 rainscapes by Dec. 2012, so if we haven’t contacted you yet, hang in there! We will likely hold another rainscapes workshop later in 2011, possibly targeting a different neighborhood. Landowner interest is a huge determinant of where we will work, so continue to stay involved and we’ll do our best to get to you soon!



#### Inside this issue:

Black Creek highlights	1
Summary of last meeting	1
Feedback to developers	2

## BCWA members, NCSU providing feedback on developments

Several of you may have noticed some emails on the Black Creek listserv earlier this year about the proposed rezoning of the land next to the Harris Teeter shopping center, from commercial to high density residential (officially called the Northwoods PDD rezoning ).

Some BCWA members individually provided their feedback to the developers . We asked our NCSU project engineer to review a proposed site plan and provide some feedback to the developer about possible ways to reduce the stormwater runoff from the site.

In the end, the developer did incorporate some increased protection above what is required by the Town’s stormwater rules, and the Town Council approved the rezoning.

Thanks to the BCWA members who have alerted others through the listserv on proposed rezonings and other activities that impact Black Creek. Please keep in mind that as project staff we will not make recommendations to the Town or developers on behalf of the BCWA without

holding a meeting(s) where members can learn about the issues together and collaboratively make a recommendation. You are welcome to suggest that we schedule BCWA meetings to discuss issues that arise, and you are certainly welcome to ask for professional opinions on water quality, policy, low impact development, etc. We are happy to seek out other professionals who may be able to provide insight on issues and invite them to a BCWA meeting, like we did during the watershed planning phase of the Black Creek project.

Our goal as project staff is to do our best to facilitate collaborative decision-making and project implementation that leads to an improved Black Creek watershed.



Participants at the first community rainscape workshop look for potential projects on maps of Beechtree and Wessex neighborhoods

### West Cary Middle School Raingardens– Finalist for Project of the Year

The raingardens made it as a finalist for NC Rotary District 7710’s Project of the Year Award. District 7710 consists of approximately 60 Rotary clubs. Cary Rotary Club donated ~\$2,000 towards planting the raingardens, and members volunteered their time to plant the parking lot raingarden.



christy\_perrin@ncsu.edu  
 919-515-4542  
 patrick\_beggs@ncsu.edu  
[www.ncsu.edu/WECO](http://www.ncsu.edu/WECO)