



WATERSHED EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND OFFICIALS

BURNT MILL CREEK WATERSHED

WWW.NCSU.EDU/WECO/BURNTMILL

WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

WORK IN WATERSHED CONTINUES!

If you don't live in the Bottom Neighborhood or near the new wetland at Mary Bridger Park, you may be wondering what's going on in Burnt Mill Creek! Since the watershed group last met, project partners have been actively working on projects to restore Burnt Mill Creek. Please join us on March 20 to share what we've been doing and to plan for spring & summer activities. See you soon!

We last met...when?

The Group met last in August 2007. Participants updated each other on watershed projects and news. Updates on our work since then are included in this newsletter.

New Funding for Burnt Mill Creek

The partnership has been awarded a new NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant, to start in 2008. The grant is for identifying and designing additional BMP sites, targeting large parking lot retro-fits, and to investigate

if/how parking lot management practices may be contributing to PAH contamination in Burnt Mill Creek.

Also, the EPA 319 grant that was slated to end in October 2007 was granted an extension until summer 2008. There may be minor overlap of the 2 projects, and we are pleased that the funding will allow us to continue working in Burnt Mill Creek through 2009. CWMTF will expect us to develop an additional proposal to implement BMPs in Burnt Mill Creek.

BURNT MILL CREEK BMP UPDATE

Several BMPs have been installed over the course of the EPA 319 funded project. Over fall and winter, Jason Wright has been working hard, making sure BMPs are maintained, and monitored. Joe Abbate has been helping with monitoring. The following BMPs have been completed.

Stonethrow Townhomes: This wetland/bioretenion project is a monitoring site.

YMCA: A pervious pavement lot replaced a gravel lot. Runoff from half of the building drains into a bioretention area, with overflow running onto the pervious pavement.

Port City Java: The parking lot now drains to bioretention before flowing into Burnt Mill Creek. It is a monitoring site.

Gregory Elementary: A bioretention area was designed and constructed to treat parking lot runoff. A newly installed cistern captures roof runoff for the school's gardens. See pictures at the March 20 meeting!

Mary Bridgers' Park: This completed wetland is a monitoring site. The City of Wilmington recently built a bridge across the wetland. The bridge was requested by citizens during the planning workshops.

Additional BMPs: At our last Burnt Mill Creek meeting, participants discussed potential areas for new BMPs. These included some commercial parking lot sites which would make ideal bioretention

We meet next:

Thursday, March 20

6:15-8:30

**At the Cape Fear River
Watch bldg, Surry Street**

Agenda:

Update on projects

Planning data analysis for Plan update

Planning for public celebration

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August Meeting Participants:

Joe Abbatte, CFRW
Bouty Baldrige, Burnt Mill Creek resident
Patrick Beggs, WECO, NCSU
Heather Boyette, NCDWQ
Jennifer Butler, Wilmington Stormwater Services
Bill Hunt, NCSU Dept. BAE
Russell Jasket, CFRW
Mike Mallin, UNC-W
Dave Mayes, City of Wilmington Stormwater Services
Bill Murray, Cape Fear River Watch
Christy Perrin, WECO, NCSU
Shawn Ralston, New Hanover County
Doug Springer, CFRW
Jason Wright, NCSU Dept. BAE

BMP UPDATE CONTINUED...

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tion retrofits. We would like to work with the commercial landowner, but since that is taking time to make contact we will focus on those sites for the CWMTF effort.

Other suggestions included:

- Love Grove Park (discuss with Phil Prete)
- Cumber's Ditch— possible monitoring
- Glen Townhomes— potential raingardens
- Cedar Avenue— the City is restoring a section of Sweetwater Branch, and flooding is an issue. Current piping leaves

College road and goes through private property. The city is replacing the pipe. Potential for BMPs on surrounding properties (note— we examined this area in November, and though there are opportunities, they must wait until the major construction of the pipe retro-fit work is complete.)

With time running out on the EPA 319 grant, the project team is considering approaching schools in the watershed for cisterns. These would have a faster turn-around then constructed BMPs, and would have multiple benefits. We will discuss these options at our next meeting.

BURNT MILL CREEK MONITORING RESULTS 2007

Project partner Mike Mallin, UNC-Wilmington, has provided a report, *Burnt Mill Creek Water Quality Summary 2007*. It summarizes the monitoring results of the 6 sampling sites on the creek.

Mean fecal coliform concentrations were in excess of the State standard for human contact waters. Sediment metal concentrations were below harmful levels except for lead at the Princess Place site. Sediment samples were analyzed for polycyclic aromatic

hydrocarbons (PAHs), and 5 of the 6 samples exceeded concentrations at which harmful effects on aquatic communities occasionally occur (according to EPA guidelines). NCSU is monitoring runoff from the Port City Java parking lot to investigate bioretention's potential for reducing PAH concentrations in runoff.

To view the chapter on Burnt Mill Creek online, visit

www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/burntmill

WORKING IN THE BOTTOMS COMMUNITY

Project team members have been focusing much time on the efforts in the Bottom Community. Efforts to identify and install rain gardens and rain barrels have continued, with a third workshop held on March 1. One noted benefit is that some raingarden participants have been able to pull stormwater runoff away from their foundations, reducing localized flooding impacts.

Emily McCoy, NCSU graduate student in Landscape Architecture, has chosen the Bottom project as one focus area for her master project. She visited and interviewed residents about the efforts in the community. Some of these results will be shared at the March 20 meeting. We're thankful for her assistance! We will continue to work with residents until our EPA 319 grant ends in August.



Marvis McCrimmon, Bottom Neighborhood resident, uses her rainbarrel often

For more information: christy_perrin@ncsu.edu, or (919) 515-4542