

INTRODUCTION

A natural stormwater restoration is being planned at 808 West Trinity Avenue, the site of the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center. This site will be transformed into a space that will be an asset to both the community and the environment. The property is located along a South Ellerbe Creek tributary that flows into Falls Lake.

Public Input

The South Ellerbe Stormwater Wetland concept plan (concept plan) has been developed to improve water quality, help protect Falls Lake, and create a natural area that is an asset to the community. Engaging Durham residents in the project is a priority for the City. The concept plan is based on input provided by residents and other attendees through a public meeting, a design workshop, emails, and survey responses. Information presented at both public events as well as video summaries can be found on the City's project website (<http://durhamnc.gov/1616>).

Concept Plan

The concept plan is presented in Figures 1 through 3. Highlights include:

- Removal of the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center building, parking lot, and entrances
- 4.3-acre stormwater wetland that includes restoration of two tributaries to South Ellerbe Creek
- Parallel parking and a dedicated bike lane along West Trinity Ave.
- Pedestrian plaza along West Trinity Ave. that includes seating areas, elevated views of the wetland area, and gently-sloping lawn areas
- Loop trail that connects to the South Ellerbe Creek Trail and the future Belt Line Trail
- Two areas of terrace-style seating from the loop trail down to the surface of the wetland
- Elevated boardwalks over the wetland and an overlook connected to the future Belt Line Trail to enhance views of the wetland area
- Opportunities for educational signage and public art to encourage visitors to interact with site.



Figure 1. Concept Plan for South Ellerbe Stormwater Wetland Project



Figure 2. View of South Ellerbe Stormwater Wetland from proposed overlook along Future Belt Line Trail.



Figure 3. View of South Ellerbe Stormwater Wetland from lawn area along Trinity Avenue Plaza.

PROJECT UPDATES

Through the City's bid process, 4 Seasons Site and Demo, Inc. was selected for the building demolition. Work to remove the building is expected to begin in Spring 2018 and continue into Summer 2018. Security fencing will be installed at the beginning of demolition for public safety. As demolition progresses, the project team will continue working to finalize design plans and complete the permitting process. Construction of the stormwater wetland project will continue through 2020.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Engaging the public during this project is a priority for the City. The City will continue to provide project updates and solicit input from residents and other interested groups throughout the duration of the project. The next public meeting will take place prior to construction. Follow the project on social media, view project videos, and get updates by visiting the project website at <http://durhamnc.gov/1616>.



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For more information, visit the project web page: <http://durhamnc.gov/1616>. You may also contact the City's Project Manager, **Sandi Wilbur**, at Sandra.Wilbur@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4326, ext. 30286 or **Megan Walsh** at Megan.Walsh@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4326 ext. 30220.