



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Release

For Details, Contact:

Amy C. Blalock
Senior Public Affairs Specialist
(919) 560-4123 x 253
(919) 475-7735 (cell)
Amy.Blalock@durhamnc.gov

For Immediate Release: September 24, 2008

Public Information Session Set for Durham's Ellerbe Creek Watershed Improvement Project

October 22 Meeting to Provide Progress Report and Solicit Further Citizen Input

Durham, N.C. – Durham residents interested in revitalizing the health of Ellerbe Creek will get a chance to make their opinions count at an upcoming public meeting in October.

The City of Durham's Department of Public Works will host a second public information meeting regarding the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Improvement Project on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at 6 p.m. in Planning Conference Room A, located on the Ground Floor of City Hall at 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham.

This meeting will provide residents and interested stakeholders a progress report on the project, which began in December 2007 with field crews assessing streams and stormwater devices in the Ellerbe Creek watershed. A discussion of how citizen comments received at the April 2, 2008 public meeting were incorporated into planning the potential retrofit and restoration projects is on the agenda. Modeling tools that will help the City select projects that will have the greatest positive impact on the watershed and water quality will also be demonstrated.

According to Sandi Wilbur, project manager with the Stormwater Services Division of the City's Department of Public Works, input by residents is vital for developing criteria to be used for prioritizing watershed restoration opportunities. "Since the primary goal of this project is to revitalize the health of Ellerbe Creek and to comply with water quality regulations, citizen input in shaping and prioritizing the watershed restoration project is an important component," Wilbur said.

Another public information meeting will be held near the conclusion of the project, which is scheduled for summer 2009, to discuss the draft watershed improvement plan. For additional information about this project, visit www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/stormwater_ellerbe.cfm or contact Wilbur at (919) 560-4326, extension 286 or via e-mail at sandi.wilbur@durhamnc.gov.

About the Stormwater Services Division, Department of Public Works

The Stormwater Services Division with the City's Department of Public Works has the major responsibility for enforcing all existing stormwater ordinances and regulations. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; education and outreach; and stream monitoring, restoration and watershed master planning. To learn more about this division, visit www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/stormwater.cfm.

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