



Black Creek Watershed Wire

Summer 2014

Hello Black Creek residents and fans!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and enjoying all the recent downpours! This email newsletter shares the latest with the Black Creek project. Please feel free to send along any suggestions for future articles and other ideas for the watershed project. The next Black Creek Watershed Association gathering will be in the fall- a poll for choosing the date will be sent beforehand.

BCWA gathering in June - brief summary

BCWA members met at the Page-Walker Community Center on June 3 to share a meal, hear updates on Black Creek work, and share observations and ideas. Jeffrey Johnson, NCSU Dept. Biological and Agricultural Engineering, gave an overview of the bioretention (rain garden) monitoring and improvement project. Our Dept. BAE partners are monitoring three bioretention areas in the watershed. The hosting sites include Discount Tire, Advanced Auto, and Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). After monitoring stormwater flow and nutrients, Jeffrey and his colleagues will create internal water storage zones to try to increase infiltration and reduce nitrates from stormwater. They will then measure changes to see how it works. Also at the meeting, Christy shared the final brochure for recruiting businesses and institutions to the Black Creek effort, and asked participants to share a brochure with one potential new partner this summer. We will follow up after initial contacts are made. See the "Volunteers needed" newsletter item for more info- the Black Creek effort could use your help! The brochure is posted on the website.

Newsletter contents

BCWA meeting- summary

Cary project moves to Godbold Park

Volunteers needed to reach out to new partners

Big Sweep for Black Creek on October 4

BCWA members on Town of Cary boards and commissions

Opportunity to spiff up rain gardens

Proposed N. Cary Park rain garden project moves to Robert V. Godbold Park

The rain garden originally proposed for North Cary Park was canceled due to concerns about water infiltration on a slope and additional maintenance required by the Town. Instead, a wetland retrofit has been planned at Godbold Park where currently an under performing and unattractive dry retention area is receiving parking lot runoff. The Town of Cary will provide excavation services for this retrofit, and a volunteer event will be planned for installing wetland plants in early fall. We will announce the date and call for volunteers soon.

Volunteers needed to reach out to potential new "Black Creek Champions"

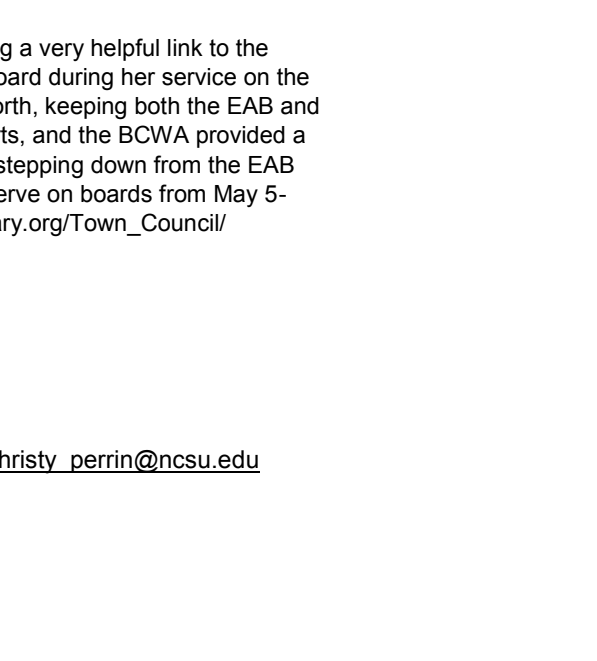
Our current campaign invites businesses and other institutions to learn about Black Creek and how solutions can benefit their interests while improving the creek. We need your help in reaching out to new partners. We're asking Black Creek residents to share the new brochure with one business (or non-profit or apartment complex) this summer. To help, please let Christy know and she'll follow up with a brochure, a script to help you figure out what to say, and ideas for who to contact if you need them. Our "ask" will be more effective coming from current or future customers and community members! We will follow up on the contacts once you give them a brochure, and will provide stormwater consultations to interested folks. One or more business will receive technical and financial help to install a retrofit project. A few of you have contacted businesses already - thank you all for your help with this important task!!

Big Sweep for Black Creek returns on October 4

Mark Saturday, October 4 on your calendar as Big Sweep for Black Creek! We'll meet in the usual place at the Black Creek Greenway parking lot on NW Maynard Rd. across from Godbold Park at 9 am. Groups from churches, schools, and other organizations are welcomed, and volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult due to the need for car travel to reach most of the clean up sites. Let Christy know if you would like to host a group from your organization.

Opportunity to keep rain gardens spiffed and functioning

Beechtree resident Paul Eppers has organized a volunteer maintenance day for the Beechtree Greenway rain gardens on Saturday, July 19. Meet



Beechtree Greenway rain garden doing its job

BCWA members provide links to Town of Cary boards and commissions

We want to thank Liz Adams for providing a very helpful link to the Town of Cary Environmental Advisory Board during her service on the board. Liz provided updates back and forth, keeping both the EAB and the BCWA informed of each others' efforts, and the BCWA provided a couple presentations to the EAB. Liz is stepping down from the EAB after 2 terms. Volunteers can apply to serve on boards from May 5-June 20 each year: http://www.townofcary.org/Town_Council/Boards___Commissions.htm

Questions or comments? E-mail us at christy_perrin@ncsu.edu