



Ellerbe Creek Watershed Assessment Summary Sheet

Fast Facts:

- The City of Durham is conducting an assessment of the Ellerbe Creek watershed to identify areas for restoration projects that will improve the health of the creek and its watershed. This implementation plan is a follow-up to the local watershed plan that was completed in 2003.
- The City of Durham will conduct the field portion of the assessment of the Ellerbe Creek watershed from December 2007 through February 2008.
- Residents along Ellerbe Creek may notice field crews in their neighborhood and conducting stream walks. Crews will be assessing stream conditions and existing stormwater devices in the watershed.
- For additional information and a map of streams to be walked, visit www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater or call City Project Manager Sandi Wilbur at 560-4326 ext. 286.

How is an assessment conducted?

Assessments rely on visual clues from “stream walks.” During stream walks, scientists walk along streams looking at the condition of the stream to see which areas need improvement, e.g. if there are crumbling banks or a pile of litter and debris.

Why does Ellerbe Creek need a watershed assessment?

An assessment is like a health check-up for a watershed and its streams. By learning about a watershed’s current condition and projecting for the future, communities can better understand how activities impact their water resources. This assessment will identify and prioritize potential restoration projects that will improve water quality, improve the health of the Ellerbe Creek watershed, and create value for neighborhoods in the watershed.

How will the assessment affect the daily routines of the City of Durham residents?

City residents should not notice any disruption in their normal routines. If they live along Ellerbe Creek or adjacent to certain areas of the watershed, they may notice the scientists walking and working. They will be wearing orange vests and carrying identification, which they will provide upon request. Information about the results of the watershed assessment will be made available to the community through a public meeting this winter.