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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

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Ellerbe Creek Watershed Improvement Project Begins In Durham December 12

Program Will Help the City Prioritize and Implement Watershed Improvements

Durham, N.C. – The City of Durham Stormwater Services Division will launch an effort on December 12, 2007 aimed at studying ways to revitalize the health of Ellerbe Creek and its surrounding area.

The City has contracted with the engineering firm of Brown and Caldwell to complete a study and assessment of Ellerbe Creek and its watershed in the City of Durham.

The analysis will help the City prioritize and implement watershed improvement projects aimed at cleaning up and revitalizing the Ellerbe Creek watershed. The goals of the proposed project are to revitalize the health of Ellerbe Creek and to comply with water quality regulations. The project is scheduled to begin in December with field crews assessing streams and stormwater devices. The field evaluation and assessment activities are expected to continue until February, 2008. After the field work is completed, a list of prioritized potential watershed

improvement projects will be developed. An updated Watershed Plan will be presented in May 2009.

What can residents expect? During the inventory and assessment of the watershed, Durham residents may see scientists and field crews in orange vests with identifying credentials (which they will present upon request) walking through neighborhoods and along streams in the Ellerbe Creek watershed. In all, approximately 16 miles of streams in the watershed will be assessed.

Citizen input in shaping and prioritizing the project is encouraged. The City plans to host three public information meetings, one during the project kickoff phase, one at the mid-point of the assessment process, and one toward the conclusion of the assessment.

For additional information, including an overview of the project schedule and a map of streams to be walked, visit www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater or call Sandi Wilbur, City project manager, at (919) 560-4326 ext. 286.