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News Release

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Share! #Durham hosts 9/27 design workshop for @DurhamStormH2O restoration project at former Duke Diet & Fitness Center

Durham Hosts Downtown Stormwater Project Design Workshop

Public Input Needed on Restoration Amenities at Former Duke Diet and Fitness Center

DURHAM, N.C. – Residents who want to provide design input for the South Ellerbe Stormwater Restoration project should mark their calendars now to attend a workshop later this month.

The workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Adaron Hall at the Durham Arts Council, located at 120 Morris Street. [Paid parking](#) is available on the street or at the Durham Centre Parking Garage, located at 300 W. Morgan Street.

The workshop will be an opportunity for residents to provide input on the project design concept that will occupy the site of the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center, located at 808 W. Trinity Avenue. The project survey conducted earlier this year indicated that improving water quality in Ellerbe Creek is an important goal and amenities such as trails, boardwalks, seating areas and other educational interaction are important to evaluate as part of the design.

“The project team has shaped this design workshop based on public input we’ve received so far,” said [Sandra Wilbur](#), project manager with the [Stormwater & GIS Services Division](#) of the City’s Public Works Department. “We had a great response to the first public session and survey. Now, we want to take an in-depth look at some of the ideas that could enhance the site and make it a premiere restoration project and asset for Durham.”

According to Wilbur, the site is a natural low point that receives rain runoff from downtown and nearby neighborhoods. The runoff flows into a branch of South Ellerbe Creek before making its way downstream to Falls Lake, a major regional drinking water source. This stormwater restoration will slow down the runoff, allowing specialized plants and soil to filter out pollution and improve aquatic life. The enhanced urban green space will also allow access to nature and provide carbon storage.

For more information about the project, visit the South Ellerbe Stormwater Restoration [webpage](#) or contact Wilbur at (919) 560-4326, extension 30286 or by [email](#). Persons who require assistance to attend the session should call (919) 560-4197, TTY (919) 560-1200, or send an [email](#) no later than 48 hours before the event.

About the Public Works Department Stormwater and GIS Services Division

The [Stormwater and GIS Services Division](#) with the City of Durham Public Works Department is guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#) goals of stewardship of the City's physical and environmental assets and innovative and high-performing organization. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; enforcing stormwater ordinances and regulations; education and outreach; stream monitoring, restoration, and watershed master planning; maintaining multiple layers of the City's geographic information; and stormwater billing. To learn more visit the division's [webpage](#), like on [Facebook](#) and follow on [Twitter](#).

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