

Northeast Creek and Crooked Creek Watershed Improvement Project Fact Sheet

What is a watershed?

Everyone lives in a watershed. A watershed is all the land that drains to a particular body of water, such as a lake, river, creek, or stream. For example, when it rains, water not absorbed into the ground becomes runoff which naturally runs to the lowest point, usually a body of water. The Northeast Creek and Crooked Creek watersheds are in the southern portion of Durham and drain to Lake Jordan.

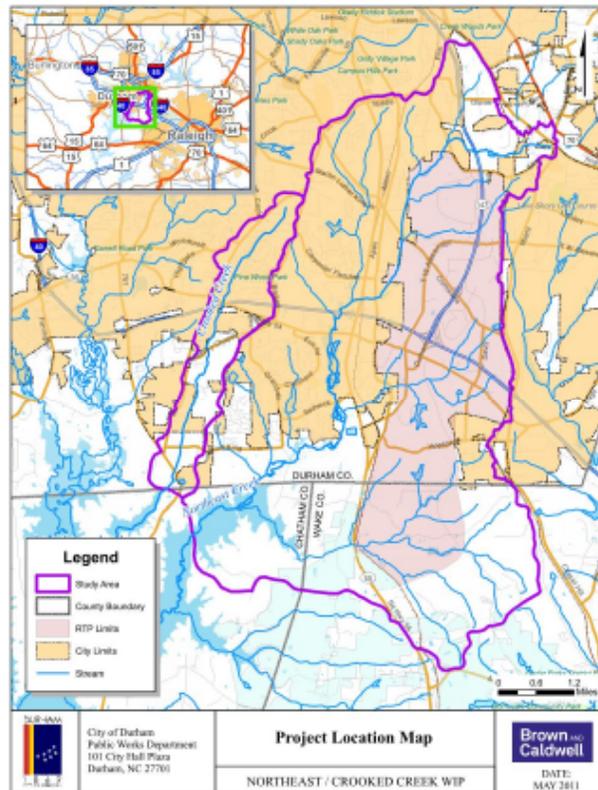
What is the purpose of this project?

The project's goal is to help the City find the best ways to protect our water supply and to improve the quality of the water in our streams. This project will help the City understand the sources of pollution entering the creeks. It will also

identify the types of stormwater control measures that will have the greatest potential to improve water quality. In addition, both Jordan Lake and Northeast Creek are designated "impaired waters" by the State of North Carolina. An important goal is to find the best ways to meet the requirement to improve the waters and remove the impairments.

What are the first steps?

The project will start with an assessment of the watersheds. An assessment is like a health check-up. By learning about the watersheds' current condition and projecting for the future, communities can better understand how activities affect their water resources.



What areas will the project cover?

Scientists will examine existing stormwater management devices in the watersheds and over 20 miles of Northeast and Crooked Creeks. They will make visual observations on the overall conditions of stream banks and water quality.



Scientists and engineers will be in your neighborhood and creeks checking the health of the watersheds.

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

City residents should not notice any disruption in their normal routines. Starting in June, you may see the scientists walking and making measurements and notes or taking photographs. They will be wearing orange vests and carrying identification, which they will provide upon request. This part of the work will be completed by early October.

What happens after the field work is completed?

After the field work is completed the City's staff and consultants will identify specific opportunities to protect and improve water quality. Working with residents of the watersheds, the project staff will develop a recommended watershed improvement plan. The plan will be discussed in public meetings and revised to address the watersheds' needs and residents concerns.

For additional information:

Information about the project's progress and its results will be available to the community through public meetings, emails, and the City's Engineering and Stormwater Services Division home page at: www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater or call the City Project Manager Sandi Wilbur at (919) 560-4326 ext. 30286.