

Parks with Purpose Community Task Force Newsletter and Meeting Summary

December 2, 2019 Meeting | Norman and Betty Camp Education Center

December meeting participants: Kevin Boyer, Raleigh Stormwater; Eric Butler, Shaw University; Betty Camp, Norman Camp Jr.; Frances Carmichael, Biltmore Hills; Bettie Brodie Thompson, Rochester Heights; Heather Dutra, Raleigh Stormwater; Bill Flournoy, Triangle Greenways Council; Stacia Turner, The Conservation Fund (TCF); Stacie Hagwood, Walnut Creek Wetland Park; Kristi Moyer, NCSU PRCR; Christy Perrin, WRR!; Louie Rivers, NCSU CNR; Randy Senzig, Center for Human and Earth Restoration; Grace Fullmer, WRR!; Wayne Shore, Fuller Magnet Elementary School; Chandler Johnson, Biltmore Hills; Mike Villenue, S. State St. Condos; Megan Shaffer, S. State St. Condos; Emily McCoy, Design Workshop; Jackie Turner, J Turner Consulting

Task Force Actions and Decisions

- **Next Task Force meeting is January 27th, 2020 at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park-open to public**
- Update the recording on the Bailey Dr. Greenspace phone number
- Continue to share with the design team ways to engage the community on PWP planning efforts (contact Jackie Turner at jackie@jturnerconsulting.com)
- Reach out to community members with information on participating in planning efforts
- Forward or like posts on social media and NextDoor

Parks with Purpose Team Updates

- The Design Workshop team continues to host workshops in the community to help develop a preliminary project concept. At the next meeting in January, the team will present findings from the community engagement workshops and a preliminary concept presentation. This meeting is open to the community and all are encouraged to attend to provide feedback before the final concept is developed. The final concept map will be ready in February or early March for celebration. The project will go out to bid once the concept is complete, and construction will hopefully begin at the end of 2020.

Meeting Summary

Rochester Heights Tributary Project

As part of the larger Walnut Creek Watershed Plan, the Water Resources Research Institute (WRR!) received a small grant from American Rivers to hire an intern to coordinate the development of a plan to help address stormwater and flooding concerns around the Rochester Heights Tributary. The Rochester Heights Tributary feeds into Walnut Creek near the intersection of Bailey Dr. and Hadley St. in the Rochester Heights neighborhood, also the location of the Bailey Drive Green space project. In 2016, a NCSU graduate student conducted research on stormwater, flooding, and trust of local government within the Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills neighborhoods. Her results highlighted that the Rochester Heights Tributary could be a focus area to implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects (nature-based solutions like rain gardens that reduce stormwater impacts) to help address community stormwater and flooding concerns. This tributary is experiencing erosion and sedimentation that

can contribute to flooding concerns, inability to properly manage stormwater, and poor ecosystem health of Walnut Creek. The project team is comprised of Amin Davis (NCDWR; PEJ), Krissy Hopkins (USGS), Grace Fullmer (WRRRI), Cam McNutt (NCDWR), Christy Perrin (WRRRI), Dr. Louie Rivers (NCSU CNR), and Mitch Woodward (Wake County Cooperative Extension).

The project team will conduct a variety of activities to help develop a green stormwater infrastructure plan, including: survey people living along the tributary to better understand how and where flooding and stormwater issues are and their interest in being involved in projects; use Geographical Information System (GIS) modeling and field data to help locate potential project sites; collaborate with partners and the community to develop plan goals and actions, and possibly engage the community with small-scale projects such as backyard streambank planting.

Planning for this project will be completed by the end of March 2020. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out. Grace Fullmer at gfullme@ncsu.edu; Christy Perrin at 919-513-1152 christy_perrin@ncsu.edu; Dr. Louie Rivers at livers@ncsu.edu



Map of the Rochester Heights Tributary project. The shaded area is the study area, and the blue line is the tributary itself.

Parks with Purpose Community Engagement Summary



November 9th workshop participants playing the chip game.

Jackie Turner opened the community engagement discussion with a conversation about all of the projects, partnerships and events that are happening within this area. There is Parks with Purpose, Partner for Environmental Justice's design of the nature play area at the Wetland Center, City of Raleigh Stormwater Management drainage assistance program, stormwater arts contest, the City's Stormwater Management Advisory Commission, invasive plant species removal planned, the Rochester Heights Tributary project, and other enhancements. She encourages all partners and participants to share information on these projects and events so that everyone is in the loop.

Over the past few months the design team has been busy engaging the community of Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills. For the November 9th design workshop, over 450 homes were canvassed with door hangers announcing the workshop and the project. Canvassers spoke to about 15% of the people canvassed to.

The November 9th workshop included various stations for attendees to interact with. Such stations included: information on the City of Raleigh Parks department; a fun slideshow of animals that live in and around the wetland; information on the

history of the neighborhoods and street namesakes; activity for people to select their visual preferences for the park; the chip game to help plan out the layout of the park' and a station to write down goals and priorities for the park. Even with the canvassing effort, the November 9th meeting had very low attendance. However, the quality of the engagement was high where the facilitators were able to have longer conversations and hear more stories from attendees.

Given the low turnout on November 9th, community engagement efforts have been re-tooled to focus on meeting the community where they are already gathering. Jackie went to St. Ambrose Church on November 24th for a post-service mini-workshop, which had a great turnout. Current and future engagement efforts include: working with Wayne Shore at Fuller Elementary School on an event for parents with Spanish translators, seeking to attend a Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) meeting, work with more churches and community groups (CACs, Garner Road Community Center, and other schools) to facilitate mini-workshops, updating the WRRRI Walnut Creek Wetland project website to include current upcoming information about the PWP project <https://wrri.ncsu.edu/partnerships/cewm/walnut-creek-wetland-community-project/>, Jackie has made a plan for when and how to use social media, and a survey may be given to the residents on Bailey Dr.

Interactive Design Activities

The design team brought a mini-workshop to this meeting, where attendees were asked to participate in different stations to help create the design of the greenspace. Stations included: visual preference, where participants selected various features that they would like to see in the greenspace such as pollinator gardens, event space and signage; goals and priorities for the greenspace where participants wrote down what is important for them for this space; and the chip game, where participants placed various features such as a trail, garden or signs over a base map of the greenspace area.



Meeting participants playing the Chip Game.



Participants talking about their goals and priorities for the project.

The stations held at this meeting were also at the workshops held in November, and will be used in future mini-workshops as engagement continues. The design team will also make packets with activities that gather similar information.

Workshop Summary / Emerging Themes

Emily provided a summary of the workshops results thus far from the November 9th and 24th workshops.

- Top 9 visual preferences for the park include (order from highest to lowest preference):

- Pollinator gardens
- Artful boardwalk
- Community garden
- Central gathering area
- History exhibit
- Intergenerational play
- Signage and storytelling
- Event and space shelter
- What people want to see in the Bailey Drive Greenspace
 - Event space/shelter
 - Community garden
 - Intergenerational activity
 - Additional thoughts:
 - Considerations of safety and cleanliness, and thoughtful signage
- How should the greenspace look to those outside
 - Areas to rest and get oriented (signage)
 - Places for expression and creativity
 - Central gateway
 - Additional thoughts:
 - Bike lanes and safety fences
- Preferences for non-wetland areas
 - Pollinator and butterfly gardens
 - Central gathering area
 - Flexible, communal settings
 - Additional thoughts:
 - Bike paths
- Preferences for wetland areas
 - Natural materials for play and exploration
 - Nature viewing and points of interest
 - Signage and story-telling and wayfinding
- Chip game takeaway (top 8):
 - Protected wetland
 - Natural play
 - Wildlife blind
 - Exhibit/kiosk
 - Wetland garden
 - Butterfly and pollinator garden
 - Flowering trees
 - Outdoor classroom and picnic shelter

The overall summary of the emerging themes is that people want intergenerational space for people of all ages to gather, elements of history and storytelling through art and signage, nature and beauty elements that protect the environment, connection to the larger wetland park, educational opportunities, safety and cleanliness, and to address stormwater challenges.

There was conversation on what “connections” meant to the community- does it mean a trail or sidewalk along Bailey Dr. or connections to other parts of the community? The City’s Master Plan talks about a gateway to the Wetland Park, but found out people want to have a direct connection, or corridor, to the Wetland Center. However, it does seem important that a sidewalk, trail or parking area be placed along Bailey Dr. to accommodate for people walking there, and such elements could help slow down speeding traffic on this stretch of road. In

summary, connections can be thought of creating a complete system or neighborhood where people have parking, safe walking trails to the Wetland Center or to the nearby stores.

Heather Dutra from the City's Stormwater Department commented that green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) elements didn't receive as much interest, but that a pollinator garden is a GSI structure. It was noted that the interest in a pollinator garden could be interpreted as interest in GSI elements that contain similar plantings.

Thoughts on other community engagement opportunities

The design team is interested in other ways to engage the community and opened up a group discussion about other opportunities that haven't been explored yet. Meeting participants mentioned having more signage along Bailey Dr. to announce events; sharing event information at other community events; working with the Cosmopolitan Church on Crosslink Rd., the Shirley Ceaser Church and the Mascedonia Church on Rock Quarry Rd. to do a similar mini-workshop like the one held at this meeting; connect with Betty Camp and The Top Ladies (who do a stream clean-up twice a year) to help them get further involved in community-wide efforts; connect with the AKA Sorority House that meets on Thursday nights on Garner Rd., and add social media and website links or an email address to the "I support Bailey Drive Greenspace" signs.

Future engagement

The design team seeks more information from the community to get a more well-rounded understanding of what the community wants for the greenspace. Jackie will continue with community engagement efforts based off of the feedback from this meeting, and other plans already in place. Future engagement actions include: outreach to schools; visit SE CAC; community survey along Bailey Dr.; and work to have more community people show up to the workshops than the technical team.

Jackie is open to coming out and presenting the mini-workshops to any possible individuals and groups. Please reach out to her with additional ideas or interest in participating.

The next meeting will be held Monday, January 27th at 5:30PM
at the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center
950 Peterson st, Raleigh, NC 27610

For information about the Urban Park with Purpose Community Task Force or Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership, contact Christy Perrin at Christy_perrin@ncsu.edu or Louie Rivers at livers@ncsu.edu