

Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership

Winter 2020 Newsletter

As 2020 ends, we find ourselves reflecting on the year. While it has been a year full of challenges and hardships, we are proud of and inspired by the efforts pushed forward by the Walnut Creek wetland partners.

2020 Photos: A Year in Review



After community engagement, one of two concept designs was selected for the Bailey Drive Gateway site, “A Walk in the Neighborhood.”



COVID-19 hit, and the community was called upon to practice social distancing—but our parks and greenways offered a safe outdoor space.



Partners completed a watershed plan for the Rochester Heights Creek, and were awarded a grant to install a series of stormwater control measures in Biltmore Hills Park—the effort will start in January 2021.



Engagement efforts pivoted this year. Instead of public gatherings, outreach included 50 direct mailings with locally-made masks, phone interviews, and flyers in produce boxes to 20 homes.



PEJ hired Tatiana Height as Program Director, she is coordinating the upcoming Raleigh Watershed Learning Network, and other future programming.



In spring and fall, two different American Conservation Experience crews, including local young adults, did vegetation management at the Wetland Park.



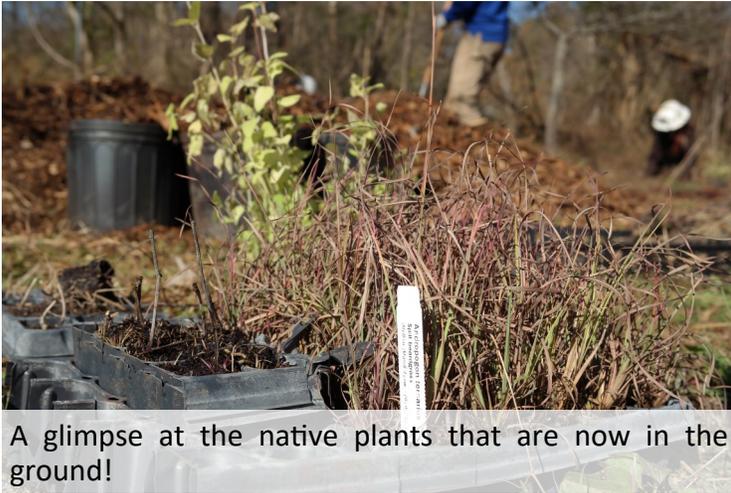
A Busy Winter Around the Wetlands

Now Hiring—Stewardship Crew

Apply and help make the Walnut Creek Wetland Park beautiful and clean. Work outside picking up litter, weeding, and planting.

6 hrs./month @ \$15/hr. January—March

To apply, contact gfullmer@ncsu.edu



Local crew members planting native plants in an area where they removed invasives.

Locals Improve the Wetland Park

Local young adults joined an American Conservation Experience (ACE) crew to do vegetation management at the wetland park. StepUp Ministry offered a professional development training, and PEJ and WRRRI did an environmental justice and watershed science training. For the past four weeks, members removed invasive plants and planted native pollinator and wetland plants. Habitat restoration is a slow process, but this group of enthusiastic, positive, and determined young adults have made impressive progress on improving the wetland.

Partners for Environmental Justice

Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) is preparing the Raleigh Watershed Learning Network (RWLN)- an educational opportunity to learn about advocating for environmental justice. Weekly virtual Saturday classes; February 27th—April 10th; \$400 completion stipend. To apply, go [here](#), or contact Tatiana Height at programdirector@pejraleighnc.org

Youth environmental justice leadership program coming in summer 2021.

WALTER Magazine mentioned PEJ as an NGO to give to in 2020. To support PEJ, visit their donation page [here](#).

To learn more about PEJ, visit pejraleighnc.org

Downtown South

PEJ has been working with partners to advocate for green infrastructure and community benefits in the proposed Downtown South Project. To receive project updates, visit pejraleighnc.org



"I learned how invasive plants take over. Fires used to burn unwanted plants. Now with roads and neighborhoods, fires don't burn and invasives grow." - Tay



"I learned about the historical aspect of this area, the importance of the wetlands, and all the invasives here at the park." - Kaleb

Put it down in your calendar—The next WCWCP meeting is scheduled for, **February 2nd @ 5PM**

Join us virtually for brief updates and a space for community discussions, if you want to attend contact christy_perrin@ncsu.edu

A Busy Winter Around the Wetlands

Movement on Bailey Drive

Design Workshop and the City of Raleigh are working hard on the park designs. Revised schedule:

- Final Design: March/April
- Schematic Design to Construction Drawings: Spring
- Construction Documentation: Summer, then to bid

This schedule is subject to change, we will keep you up-to-date as the project moves forward.



Tiffany Baker in front of the mural she painted at UHill Walls in Durham, NC. Photo: Tiffany Hunt.



Bailey Drive Art Coming Soon!

Design Workshop is thrilled to be working with Tiffany Baker, a Brooklyn-based visual artist, on the Bailey Drive Gateway temporary site installation. Tiffany's proposal was selected for her unique focus on the retelling of the oral histories gathered from Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills residents. The installation will activate the site, providing a place for gathering, reflection, interaction, and learning.

To learn more about Tiffany, visit her website at: tiffany-baker.com

Learning Around the Wetlands

The Norman and Betty Camp Education Center is partnering with SE Raleigh YMCA's afterschool program to engage 4th and 5th grade students on pollinators. The program will focus on stormwater and water quality, and will design and plant a pollinator garden on the backside of the YMCA.

The Walnut Creek Wetland Park is at 100% design completion for the master plan design. Included are various paths, teaching platforms and boardwalks. The plan will go before the parks board by the end of the year.

The nature playscape is now in the design process.

Winter in the Wetland: A Mystery— Sunday, 1/24 2-4PM
Fee: \$15/family Barcode: 265560

Winter Tree ID—Sunday, 1/31 2-5PM Fee: \$10 (includes book)
Barcode: 268423 To register: reclink.raleighnc.gov



Stacie Hagwood giving the Workforce Training Crew a green infrastructure tour at the center.



THANK YOU!

We look forward to the next year, and a time when we can all safely see one another in person. We hope that you and your family stay healthy and enjoy a safe holiday season!



- American Rivers
- Carolina Wetlands Association
- Center for Human and Earth Restoration
- City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
- City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Division
- Design Workshop
- Fuller Elementary School
- Institute for Landscape Art and Sustainable Practices
- JPB Foundation
- J Turner Consulting
- Kris Bass Engineering
- Local residents surrounding the wetlands
- Natural Learning Initiative, NCSU College of Design
- NC Sea Grant
- NCSU College of Natural Resources
- NCSU College of Humanities and Social Science
- Partners for Environmental Justice
- Pisces Foundation
- St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
- StepUp Ministry
- Triangle Greenways Council
- Urban Community Agronomics– Catawba Trail Farm
- Walnut Creek Wetland Park
- Water Resources Research Institute

