

Walnut Creek Wetlands Community Partners

September 2022 Newsletter



Fall is a great time to get outdoors! Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partners support people and nature around the wetlands. Join our email list for news & event updates- email [Christy Perrin@ncsu.edu](mailto:Christy_Perrin@ncsu.edu) call 919-513-1152



Exciting Updates From Partners For Environmental Justice

PEJ helped kick off the new Walnut Creek Stakeholder Group, formed as a rezoning condition for the [Downtown South](#) project thanks to PEJ & partners' negotiating for stormwater management above requirements. The Group is a coalition of residents, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, NC State and businesses, and will oversee a watershed improvement fund provided by the developers.

PEJ coordinated a full day training event in July, *Environmental Justice and Water for [American Conservation Experience](#)* interns who worked at the Wetland Park this summer.

A PEJ Board member and Walnut Creek [Watershed Learning Network](#) recently attended the [One Water Summit](#) in Milwaukee, WI by invitation.

Connect with PEJ at pejraleighnc.org and on Facebook @raleigh_pej



Healthy Soul Food 2: October 29 from 10:30- 12:30 (Another Stewardship Crew activity!)

Join nutritionist Brenda Beatty back by popular demand as she shares and demonstrates meal prep tips for healthy and tasty food! A healthy lunch will be provided. Workshop is free, registration required so we can plan for food and supplies. Register at <http://go.ncsu.edu/parks2022>

WCWCP's Stewardship Crew has been busy hosting exciting events like this at the Walnut Creek Wetland and Biltmore Hills Parks this summer! Events held included:

- Healthy Soul Food I
- Fun with Local Flowers
- Outside Play and Move Day
- WCWCP booth at Mud Day

Stay up to date with all Stewardship Crew upcoming events at <http://go.ncsu.edu/parks2022> or email christy_perrin@ncsu.edu to join our listserv and stay connected with all the great work in this newsletter!



How should this garden grow?

Walnut Creek Wetland Park is in the beginning stages of planning for a Teaching and Community Garden across the street from the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center. We would love your input! Please take the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/WalnutCreekGarden

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Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Construction Updates: The two projects on the north side of the park are nearly complete: An accessible trail with a bridge connecting to the Walnut Creek Greenway and a teaching platform a little further down the greenway. The southside trail project has run into some stormwater drainage issues and is going to take a little longer

4th Annual Mud Day

Mud Day was a great success, and the Park staff estimated that we served 400-500 children and their families. A good, very messy, time was had by all! WCWCP's Stewardship Crew invited Mud Day participants to "vote" with dots on activities they would like to do at the park. **The top 4 activities children and adults both wanted to do (in order) are:**

1. Meet & learn about wildlife
2. Paint or draw outdoors
3. Plan or care for a garden event
4. Explore streams with an expert



Conservation workforce training

[American Conservation Experience](#), (ACE) hosted a 5-week workforce training program focused on improving the Walnut Creek Wetlands! PEJ, WRII, NC State, and StepUp ministry trained the 5 member crew in water and environmental justice issues and solutions in SE Raleigh, and career skills. The crew receive training in managing vegetation, including removing non-native invasive plants, and planting native plant species, and applied what they learned at the Walnut Creek Wetlands Park. Funding for the project came from The Conservation Fund through a Duke Energy Foundation grant. Visit [American Conservation Experience](#) to learn about their other conservation opportunities!



Bailey Drive Gateway

The Bailey Drive Gateway project is still moving along. The Conservation Fund is continuing to work with Design Workshop on design development and review, and outreach this Fall for additional oral histories for a permanent art installation of legacy residents in the final design. This summer a local crew worked with American Conservation Experience (ACE) to remove invasive species and learn about the history of Walnut Creek and communities in Southeast Raleigh.

