



# Walnut Creek Wetlands Community Partners Summer Newsletter August 2021

*The Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partners next meeting is 5pm Tuesday, September 28 at the Wetland Park with a Zoom option. Email your RSVP to Christy\_Perrin@ncsu.edu  
Read on for partner updates and ways to enjoy parks while staying cool!*

## Bailey Drive Art Unveiling is a Hit

On July 17th, the Bailey Drive Gateway art installation was unveiled to the community! Artist Tiffany Baker's beautiful homage to the Rochester Heights neighborhood's rich history was celebrated with local food and festivities. The three life size glass portraits of notable residents flanked by troughs of community-planted flowers is an eye catcher. The art is temporary while permanent park features are planned, so make sure to visit soon! Design Workshop, Tiffany, and Jackie Turner planned the event.



## Exciting News for PEJ's Raleigh Watershed Learning Network

Partners for Environmental justice's recently launched Raleigh Watershed Learning Network (RWLN) is planning another 6-week community education and empowerment program. Goals are for participants to learn about stormwater management, green infrastructure and environmental justice and empowering them to protect their communities. Priority is on residents in the flood sensitive communities in the Walnut Creek watershed and participants will receive a stipend for successfully completing the program. Sessions are biweekly beginning Saturday September 11th through November 20<sup>th</sup>. Details will be on PEJ's website.

**Downtown South and stormwater:** PEJ and a group of community members and organizations are helping to make decisions about community watershed improvement projects associated with the development of the Downtown South Project (DSP). They meet monthly with the DSP development team to get updates on the site stormwater planning process.



Tiffany Baker stands with Ms. Willie May Hicks, pictured to the left



To stay connected with PEJ, visit [pejraleighnc.org](http://pejraleighnc.org) and on social media @raleigh\_pej.

## Walnut Creek Wetland Park Building Community

Walnut Creek Wetland Park is proud to display El Barrilete de Esperanza (Kite of Hope) for the summer on behalf of the Guatemalan Consulate.

Additionally, they are pleased to be a part of the inaugural Youth Conservation Corps, a collaboration between City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Partnership Raleigh. Two interns are leading six older teens in natural resource management like trail maintenance, clearing invasive plants, and litter removal.



## Nature events this summer at Biltmore Hills Park

Registration is open for a **Nature Walk with US Forest Service scientist Johnny Boggs Aug. 21 from 10:00 am- noon**. Register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/tree.tour> Participants will get a tree identification guide that was created with help from participants of a July Tree ID event at the park. Trees play an important role in reducing stormwater runoff. Other types of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) will be designed and built at Biltmore Hills Park to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution from the park.



## WCWCP Welcomes New Members

**Carmera Thomas-Wilhite** is the Director of Urban Conservation Initiatives at The Conservation Fund. She enjoys camping and spending time with her family and friends, especially in nature.



**Alyanna Wilson** is an NCSU junior finishing up her summer internship with the Water Resources Research. She has been planning activities at Biltmore Hills Park and helping with community outreach.



## City of Raleigh Stormwater Management is Making Strides

Construction on the Peterson Bioretention Area began late June, and construction on the Walnut Creek Gravel Wetland is set to begin in August. The Peterson Bioretention will help capture, absorb and clean stormwater runoff, while the Gravel Wetland project will help contain and clean stormwater.

Read more about the Peterson Street project [here](#) and the Gravel Wetland [here](#). Raleigh City Council has recently approved new floodplain regulations to go into effect **April 2022**. [Get the full scoop here](#). For more information contact: [amy.farinelli@raleighnc.gov](mailto:amy.farinelli@raleighnc.gov).



## SUMMER IS HOT BUT GETTING OUTDOORS IS FUN! CONSIDER-

- Checking out the new shaded picnic and play areas at [Dorothea Dix Park!](#)
- Cooling off at the new splash pad at the improved John Chavis Memorial Park!



[@walnutcreekwetlandcommunitypartnership](#)

[go.ncsu.edu/walnutcreekwetlandpartners](https://go.ncsu.edu/walnutcreekwetlandpartners)