



SPONSOR REPORT

OUR CREEK. OUR COMMUNITIES
ANNOUNCEMENT & FESTIVAL

APRIL 21-22, 2023

Admission of Walnut Creek Watershed into EPA's Urban
Waters Federal Partnership

Community Celebration

**PARTNERS FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**



www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/walnut-creek-urban-waters-partnership

Sponsor Summary

I am pleased to present to you a summary of the recently concluded event that your organization sponsored, Our Creek. Our Communities Announcement and Festival. The announcement of the Walnut Creek Watershed's admission into the Environmental Protection Agency's Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) was held on Friday, April 21, 2023 at the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Our Creek Our Communities Festival was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Southeast Raleigh YMCA. Both events were resounding successes, with great turnouts and positive feedback from attendees. We thank you for your vital support.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a national Environmental Protection Agency initiative, brings together 15 federal agencies to work alongside local communities to improve urban water quality and revitalization efforts in 21 communities across the country. The program has been in place since 2011 and Partners for Environmental Justice is pleased to have been one of the co-sponsoring organizations making the request for admission.

Anne S. Franklin
Interim Board Chair
Partners for Environmental Justice



Partners For Environmental Justice



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Attendee Statistics

- Total number of attendees: 103
- Number of VIP attendees: 8
- Number of media attendees:
1 television station (CBS17)
[see attached list of media releases
and reports]



Amin Davis

Partners for Environmental Justice



US Geological Survey Staff with
Asst. Secretary for Water and Science
Tanya Trujillo



Community members with Regional Administrator
Daniel Blackman and Father Jemonde Taylor,
Rector, St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Event Activities

Welcome comments and history from Amin Davis (Partners for Environmental Justice) and Kim Matthews (Carolina Wetlands Association). Keynote speeches from Daniel Blackman, Regional Administrator Southeastern Region, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior; Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality; Corey Branch, Council Member, Raleigh District C.



L-R (Back) Bill Holman, Meryl Harrell
(Front) Councilman Branch, Regional
Administrator Blackman, Secretary Biser



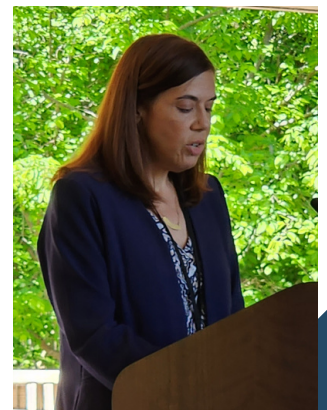
Presentations by the members of the Walnut Creek Wetlands Neighborhood Ecology Corps who are all middle school students and their advisor, Sheryl McGlory – Nature Programs Manager at the Center.

Bill Holman
The Conservation Fund



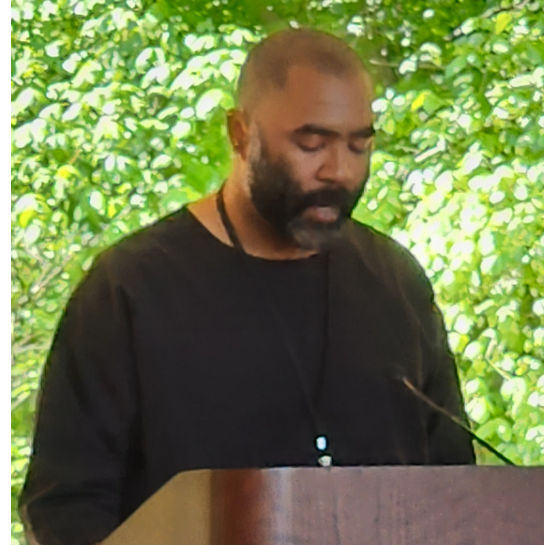
Remarks from the organizations that helped to sponsor the application for admission to the UWFP including: Andy Pleninger, Urban and Community Forestry Program, N.C. Forest Service; Bill Holman, N.C. State Director, The Conservation Fund; and Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Kim Matthews
Carolina Wetlands Association



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Event Activities

Overview of the community engagement for the artwork that will be placed at the site by the artist, Derrick Beasley.



Networking opportunities for federal, state and local agency members who were on-site as well as with the 11 members of the Lincoln Rising community organization that travelled to Raleigh from Kinston, North Carolina for the event and to learn more about the activities of Partners for Environmental Justice.

A community roundtable discussion – requested by Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior – was held after the event was over and included 26 members of the community.

Attendees were grassroots representatives of diverse communities including African American, Asian American, Native American, Hispanic, LGBTQ+ and Disability Rights.



Members of Partners of Environmental Justice Board of Directors

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Media Information

Media Coverage: The event attracted significant media coverage, with television station CBS17 covering the event. The event was also mentioned in the day's press release from The White House as President Biden announced the kickoff of the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice as part of Executive Order 14008.



“Launching the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring that people are seeing and experiencing the impacts of the President’s environmental justice agenda in their communities. To strengthen partnerships with communities that have been left behind for too long, the Administration is announcing the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice. The campaign, which is being kicked off today at the launch of the 21st Urban Waters Federal Partnership in Raleigh, North Carolina, will redouble the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to meet people where they are and better focus agency resources and attention on the needs of marginalized and overburdened communities.”

Media Links

CBS17 News Story and video

www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/wake-county-news/walnut-creek-watershed-now-part-of-u-s-environmental-protection-agencys-urban-waters-federal-partnership-program/

EPA Press Release

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/urban-waters-federal-partnership-announces-new-location-raleigh-nc-bringing>

USGS Press Release

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/sawsc/science/urban-waters-federal-partnership-walnut-creek-raleigh-north-carolina-0>

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Our Creek Our Communities Festival

Attendees: 200+

The Festival included the following indoor activities after being moved indoors due to heavy storms in the area:

- Educational Presentations such as tree identification, trash talk (creek walk after clean up), exploring water quality indicators, the value of plants
- Retail Vendors



There were a number of agencies and organizations that presented information about water and stormwater, the environment, tree and forestry care (including a tree giveaway), planting and gardening, and fish and wildlife. Those who had table presentations included:

City of Raleigh - Stormwater

Town of Cary

National Weather Service

Walnut Creek Wetlands Community Partnership, hosted by Water Resources Research Institute

Partners for Environmental Justice

Carolina Wetlands Association

Wake County

USDA and North Carolina Forest Service

Clean Water Education Partnership

US Fish and Wildlife Service

NCDOT Highway Stormwater Program

US Environmental Protection Agency

Sound Rivers

We Plant it Forward

U.S. Geological Survey

Wake County Cooperative Extension

4-H Youth Development

Master Gardener Volunteers of Wake County

Design Workshop

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Raleigh Arts

Raleigh Stories Community Engagement Project

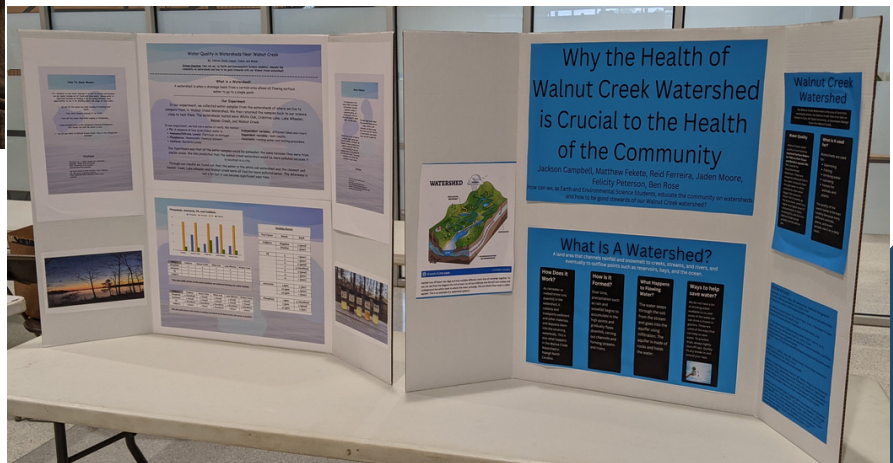
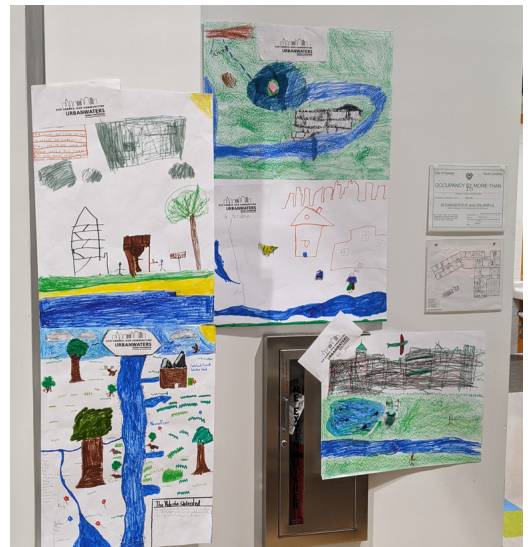
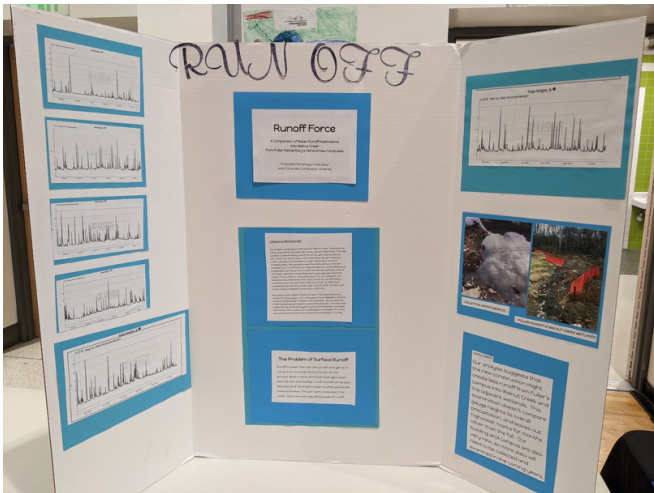
The Magic of African Rhythm Dancers and Drummers



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Our Creek Our Communities Festival

Wake County Public School Projects were presented by:

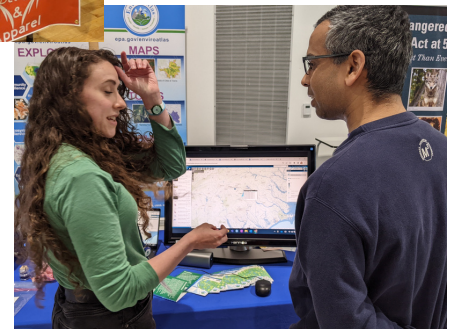
- Moore Square Magnet Middle School Future City
- Fuller GT/AIG Basics Magnet Elementary School
- Southeast Raleigh Promise Elementary School
- Crossroads Flex High School
- Ligon Magnet Middle School
- Young Women's Leadership Academy



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Our Creek Our Communities Festival

Retail Vendors involved included:

- ChelleZam Designs & Custom Apparel
- Damsel in Defense
- Simply Me and More
- Carolina Garden Coaching
- Research and Resource
- Essie's Delights
- 2BNStyle Handcrafted Jewelry
- PerfectPeaceNFusionzllc
- Paparazzi Jewelry
- Melanin Nation
- Liberation Station Bookstore
- Melanie's Runnin Stove
- Jay's Italian Ice



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Our Creek Our Communities Festival

Social Media: The event was well-publicized on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and LinkedIn. Attendees shared their experiences and positive feedback about the event, helping to further promote the event and our sponsors.

Sponsorship Benefits: As a sponsor, your brand was prominently displayed throughout the event, including on banners, signage, and promotional materials.

A large part of our effort in holding the community festival was to promote awareness and action on these critical issues of urban water management and sustainability, in collaboration with various partners and stakeholders. These issues include water pollution, flooding, infrastructure needs, and environmental justice. While Partners for Environmental Justice has more than 25 years of involvement in these areas – it is important to educate our community in an on-going manner and to be sure that all of the communities' needs and concerns are addressed.

The partnerships that we have created over the years will be able to make significant progress in achieving this goal now that we have been admitted to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This additional resource – including the ability to hire a Community Ambassador – will assist us in improving the health and well-being of our community. We look forward to having you as a continued partner in teaching and reaching our community, in particular our youth, on the importance of the use of science, technology, engineering, art and math in the future to make our water quality better.

Our partners at the Southeast Raleigh YMCA were so pleased with the event and the turnout, that they asked us to repeat it again next year. Their Green Team was a very active part of our planning and they were gracious hosts for the festival.

Conclusion: Overall, even with stormy weather and the City of Raleigh's Stormwater Robotic truck being called away because of possible flooding in the area, the event was a tremendous success, and we are grateful for your generous sponsorship that helped make it possible. Your support played a vital role in ensuring that, and we hope that it was a valuable investment for your company. We look forward to partnering with you again in the future for more successful programs.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Our Creek Our Communities Festival

