

Fall 2021 Walnut Creek Watershed Learning Network – Module 1

*Partners for
Environmental
Justice*

The mission of Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) is to advocate for the equitable treatment of both the human and natural communities in Southeast Raleigh.

Introduction

Walnut Creek Watershed Learning Network (WCWLN) kicked off on Saturday, September 11th at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center with our program coordinator, Keshi Satterwhite. She is the creator of the Durham Watershed Academy and will be assisting PEJ in our WCWLN journey. Nine participants arrived on Saturday as well as three WCWLN mentors, and four members of PEJ. The purpose of the WCWLN is to educate residents about community issues including stormwater management, environmental justice, and green infrastructure related to the Walnut Creek Watershed.



Keshi Satterwhite pictured on far right with WCWLN participants. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

The participants each received a free binder that contains information for the remaining sessions and swag bag items donated for some of PEJ's partners. In addition, the participants will receive a \$400 stipend and skills to act in their communities.

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WCWLN is six-week watershed education program where participants gain knowledge and skills to develop sustainable solutions and act in their communities.

Goals

- Expand community knowledge and skills to address water quality and stormwater challenges from an equitable, sustainable, holistic, and resilient perspective
- Encourage and support participants to be change agents and advocates for the restoration and protection of their watershed
- Increase participants' learning and engagement



Swag Bag items include bookmarks, Rainscape packet, Clean Water Brochure, recyclable pet waste bags, and lids for disposing of fats, oils, and grease properly. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.



WCWLN Participants and mentors pictured during activity. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

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Effective Communication Strategies

Christy Perrin is the Sustainable Waters and Communities Coordinator with the Water Resources Research Institute at NC State University; she spoke on Communication and negotiation: Leadership skills for community and home. The objective of her session was 1) Reflect on your communication styles, 2) Learn and practice core communication skills, 3) Consider an appreciative approach, and 4) Gain an understanding of principled negotiation. This presentation was very informative to our participants, they were to engage in ways to practice appreciative inquiry and share energizing themes.



Christy Perrin pictured on the far right. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.



Perrin and a WCWLN participant discussing communication skills and experiences. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

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Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring

Lauren Daniel from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, was the second guest speaker; she spoke on Community Watershed Stewardship. She introduced the participants to tools that can be used to share observations and discuss ways to incorporate these tools into potential projects or community events. These tools include: SCITS Tool, Community Watershed Improvement Projects, Trash Surveyor, Trash Tracker, Habitat Assessment, and Macroinvertebrate Assessment. The goal was to encourage community engagement to make personal connections with rivers and streams, with the help of using applications/technology to engage the community. The participants had the opportunity to use these various types of Watershed Monitoring.



Lauren Daniels pictured in front of the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

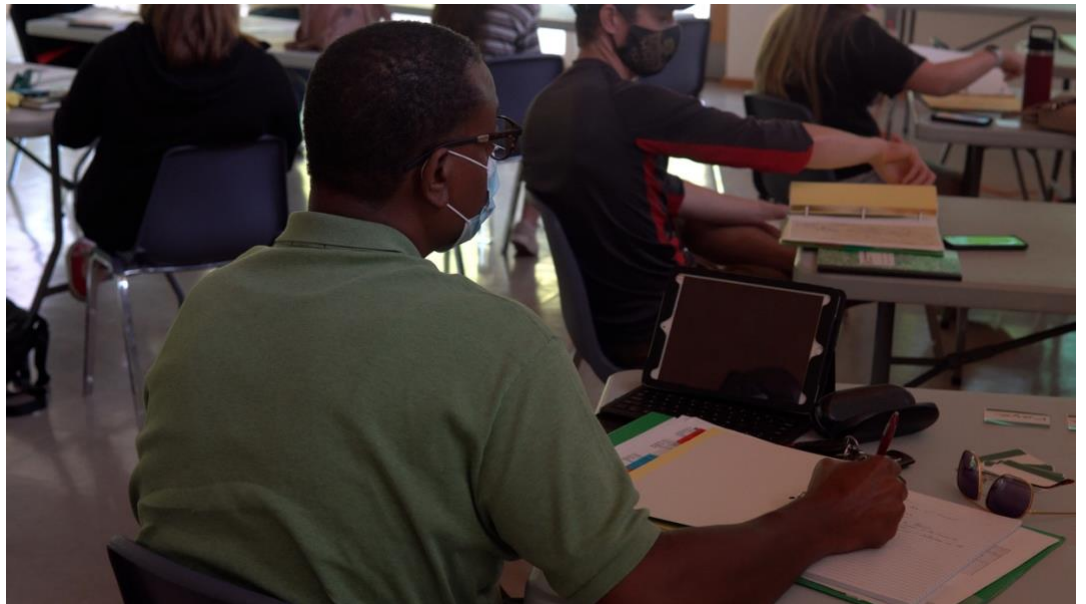


Lauren Daniels mentoring participants on the capabilities of the application. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

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Lauren Daniel pictured with participants inside the Wetland Park. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.



PEJ's Director of Community Outreach and Board Support taking notes at the WCWLN. Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

Next Module 2:

Wake County Big Sweep

September 25, 2021 @ Walnut Creek Wetland Center

950 Peterson St, Raleigh, NC 27610

8:30 am – 1:00 pm