

Huisman, John

From: Fred Dietrich [fred.dietrich@duke.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 11:36 AM
To: Huisman, John; rich.gannon@ncdener.gov
Subject: Comments on Falls Lake water quality
Attachments: gis_eno_river.tif

I will unfortunately be unable to able to attend the Durham public comments session on the Falls Lake water quality proposal, but thought I would send in a couple comments.

I am a Durham resident and am involved as a volunteer in construction and maintenance of the Mountains-to-Sea trail along the Eno River and Falls Lake. The following observations are based on my experience along this trail. It appears to me that there are a number of low cost steps that could be undertaken to help protect water quality at Fall's Lake.

Some specific observations:

- 1) The city of Durham owns some buffer land along the Eno River in Durham. Yet in a number of cases recently they have allowed clearing of the city owned buffer land by local residents. An example can be seen in the attached figure, taken from the Durham GIS site, where the buffer land behind 305 and 309 Rippling Stream Road has been cleared and replaced with fertilized lawn. This has occurred in multiple locations on both sides of the Eno River downstream of Roxboro Road. It appears to me that the City of Durham could help improve water quality in the Eno River by discouraging clearing of the city owned buffer property.
- 2) I recently worked with the City of Durham, through the parks department, to have removed a recently built concrete patio built without permits on city owned land adjacent to the Eno River near Omega Road. One possible low cost solution might be for the city to send out a letter to property owners along the streams feeding into Falls lake that certain activities such as this that adversely impact water quality, while being overlooked in the past, can no longer be overlooked.
- 3) Sewer overflows. There have been at least two sewer overflows this year at the same point on the sewer line just upstream of the Roxboro Road bridge. I reported one of these overflows. While this is a more expensive problem, it does appear that there are specific problem points in the sewer line along the Eno River that could be identified and corrected. Both of the overflows I observed were at the same location suggesting the possibility of a localized problem. One advantage of having a natural surface hiking trail along the Eno River and Falls lake is that many of the same issues that negatively impact water quality also negatively impact the trail.
- 4) Reducing impervious surfaces along Falls lake tributaries. One example of a no longer needed impervious service is Wakerobin Place in Durham. There were once homes around this street, but they were removed years ago due to flooding. The one remaining house faces onto Omega Road. This is one example of a no-longer needed impervious surface along the Eno River that could be removed at relatively low cost.

Just a couple thoughts.

Best wishes

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