

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
MEETING DATE: March 20, 2007**

TITLE: A Report on the Ecosystem Enhancement Program’s BMP Conceptual Plan for the Roberson and Carrboro Tracks Sites

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Summary Memorandum C. BMP Site Maps	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: D. Will Autry, 918-7326 Trish McGuire, 918-7327

PURPOSE

The Morgan and Little Creek Local Watershed Plan process lead to the identification of a number of potential stormwater best management practice (BMP) sites in the watershed. The North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) conducted a feasibility study of two potential sites to determine if they would be cost effective to implement. The study was recently completed by EEP, and the results for the two sites have been summarized and presented by staff for the Board.

INFORMATION

The Morgan and Little Creek Local Watershed Planning initiative was initiated in 2002. The watershed was assessed during this process, and potential BMP and stream restoration sites were identified for future implementation. At the request of the Town, EEP contracted for the feasibility study of the Carrboro Tracks site. Ward Consulting completed their study last June, and the EEP submitted the final report to the Town in January of 2007.

While investigating the Carrboro Tracks site, EEP identified another potential opportunity east of the Roberson Place Town Homes on Sweetbay Place and conducted a study for this location as well. This “Roberson site” had not been previously identified during the local watershed planning process. The Carrboro Tracks site (See Attachment C), located on Town property just below the railroad right of way and bike path, is too constrained to be economically viable at this time. The proposed pocket stormwater wetland on Roberson Place Homeowners Association property has an estimated construction cost of \$95,530 (this does not include design, expected to be 25% of construction costs), with an annual maintenance cost of \$1,550+. This cost would achieve effective treatment of a 4.12 acre watershed, reducing nutrient and sediment loads in Morgan Creek and Jordan Lake.

Additional information about this feasibility study and how it relates to the larger issue of pending Jordan Lake regulations is provided in the attached staff memorandum, Attachment B.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts associated with receiving this report. However, considerable long-term fiscal impacts are anticipated. Cost estimates were recently provided to the Environmental Management Commission by DWQ for their consideration of advancing the proposed Jordan Rules. The fiscal analysis estimates a \$403 million cost for addressing existing development in the 201,552 acre Jordan Lake Watershed. Many believe this cost has been underestimated; almost all agree that local governments in the Upper New Hope Arm of the Watershed, including Carrboro, will be required to carry a disproportionately heavy load in achieving the goal.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board accept this report summarizing the EEP's BMP Conceptual Plan for the Roberson and Carrboro Tracks Sites.