

Wetland Conversion of Upper Durant Lake Project

Public Open House Summary

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Open House Hours: 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted By: Raleigh Stormwater and Raleigh Parks

With Support from Project Consultants: WK Dickson and Toole Design Group

Attendance: 26 people

Summary

On Wednesday, April 26th, 2023, the City of Raleigh hosted a public open house for the Wetland Conversion of Upper Durant Lake project. Twenty-six people stopped by during the two-hour period. Visitors learned about the past research of the failing dam between the Upper Lake and Lower Lake, heard about the benefits and next steps for converting the Upper Lake into a wetland, and discussed the project. Following the open house, an online survey was available to those unable to attend in-person to also share their excitement, questions, and concerns.

INFORMATION PROVIDED

Visitors walked through five stations facilitated by staff from Raleigh Stormwater and Raleigh Parks and consultants from WK Dickson and Toole Design Group. Each station provided information and engaged visitors in activities and discussion about the project.

1. **Overview:** Introduced the project and shared project history, anticipated schedule, how the project will affect the park and surrounding communities, and how to stay involved
2. **Project Purpose and Goals:** Discussed the different priorities and uses of the Upper Lake and Lower Lake and invited people to view community goals from 2021 engagement and vote on which goals are still priorities today for the Upper Durant Lake
3. **Get to Know Wetland Ecosystems:** People tested their wetland knowledge with a trivia game
4. **Technical Findings:** Outlined previous analysis of the Upper Lake and failing dam and shared preliminary findings from current project research
5. **How do you enjoy Durant?:** Invited people to write their questions, excitement, and concerns

THEMES FROM FEEDBACK

- Patrons are passionate about the Preserve and visit regularly.
- Most attendees understood something needs to be done to fix the Upper Lake and were curious to find out more about the wetland conversion.
- People expressed excitement for increased biodiversity, water quality, preservation and establishment of native wildlife habitat, and continued access to trails for enjoying nature.
- Several people shared their concern about impacts of construction on natural areas and trail access. They also expressed gratitude for transparency in the planning process and requested communication to continue throughout the project.

People unable to attend the open house are invited to watch the short recap video posted on the project website: <https://raleighnc.gov/projects/wetland-conversion-upper-durant-lake>

Photos of Open House | April 26, 2023 | Wetland Conversion of Upper Durant Lake

