

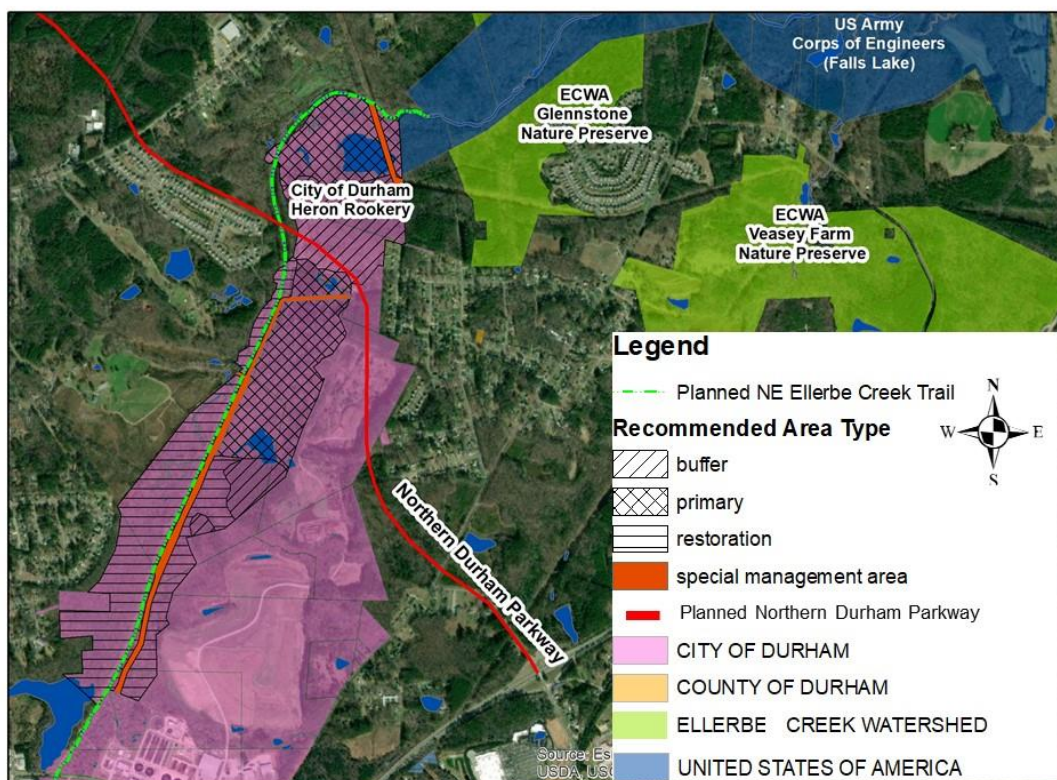


Durham City Council Information

Proposed Ellerbe Creek Waterbird Colony Dedicated Nature Preserve

Ellerbe Creek Natural Heritage Area

In lower Ellerbe Creek, the City of Durham owns 900 acres of floodplains, wetlands, and creek-side land just downstream from the North Durham Water Reclamation Facility on E. Club Boulevard and adjacent to Falls Lake. Some of this area was recently designated as a NC Natural Heritage Area due to the well-known heron rookery and habitat for other native plants and animals.



The Cross-hatched areas show the recommended 284-acre Dedicated Nature Preserve area.

The Opportunity

The NC Natural Heritage Program proposes a **State of North Carolina Dedicated Nature Preserve (DNP)**, which would provide a level of protection similar to the nearby Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association preserves. Durham would enter into a conservation agreement with the State of NC on 284 acres, ensuring conservation and prohibiting deforestation and urban development. The City of Durham could allow activities consistent with maintaining natural resources – such as research, education and low-impact recreation.

NC Natural Heritage Program and ECWA will present the Draft Articles of Dedication to Council at its January 6 Work Session. DOST Commission and Durham EAB have both passed resolutions of support urging City Council to review and adopt the necessary Articles of Dedication, which would then be reviewed by the Natural Heritage Advisory Committee and the NC Council of State. If accepted, the Dedicated Nature Preserve would be created. Attached are: Proposed Draft Articles of Dedication for the Ellerbe Creek Waterbird Colony DNP; a power point presentation; and Resolutions of Support. Several community-based groups have already pledged support and are prepared to send letters to Council.

Please contact Chris Dreps (chris@ellerbecreek.org) or Rickie White (rickie@ellerbecreek.org), or Misty Buchanan (misty.buchanan@ncdcr.gov) for more information.