

**Request:**

Mike and Kruti,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me regarding the backlog of Charlotte Stormwater projects.

One project has been brought to my attention by constituents and I need some help with background information before I can fully address their concerns.

There is a City/County project going on in Eastover that runs through the park behind the Mint Museum. I walked the property with some of the residents there this week to understand their concerns. There is a little creek that flows from behind the Museum into Briarcreek that is going to be widened from 25 feet to 50 feet, and rerouted throughout the park. The residents are being told it is for water quality control and to prevent flooding, although there has been no flooding there for eight years. The rerouting of this little creek will take out numerous trees and dissect the park.

Can you help me with the background in this project? Why is it such a high priority?

Many thanks,  
Julie Eiselt

**Response:**

Councilmember Eiselt,

Thank you for your call on November 3, regarding the Briar Creek Greenway and the Briar Creek Stream Restoration and Water Quality Enhancement Project.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services works to drain stormwater runoff safely to streams (quantity) and ensure runoff is as clean as possible when it reaches streams (quality). The storm drainage improvement projects we recently discussed, which have an associated problem classification (AI, A, B), address the quantity aspect of stormwater. Stream restoration projects improve surface water quality to meet the City's responsibilities under the Clean Water Act.

City Storm Water Services partners with County Storm Water Services to stretch the impact of our funding and improve both large and small streams in an area at the same time. The City's portion of the project focuses on improving Museum Tributary within Eastover Park. Benefits include creating habitat for aquatic life, improving surface water quality, and reducing flooding. Museum Tributary is a small component of the Briar Creek Stream Restoration and Water Quality Enhancement Project and the Briar Creek Greenway segment from Randolph Road to Meadowbrook Road.

In 2014, the City removed pipes from Museum Tributary to reduce flooding. However, the remaining portions of the stream restoration project were placed on hold until dedicated County

funding was secured. Today, construction is underway to increase the size of a storm drainage pipe within the park and realign Museum Tributary.

Residents have expressed concerns about the impact of this project on mature trees within the park. Storm Water Services recognizes the importance of trees, but unfortunately, some must be removed to realign the tributary and regrade the floodplain. A new generation of trees will be planted within the floodplain and over time these trees will enhance the canopy.

Please let me know if you would like more information about the Museum Tributary portion of the Briar Creek Stream Restoration and Water Quality Enhancement Project. I would be happy to contact Mindy Levine to set up a meeting time that is convenient for you.