

# Environmental Justice: Achieving Meaningful Involvement

ELI 2023 National Training Workshop  
June 21, 2023

Amin Davis, Board Member  
Partners for Environmental Justice





# EARLY GOALS: ADDRESS EIJs

Flooding > Flood Reduction



Trash Dumping > Removal

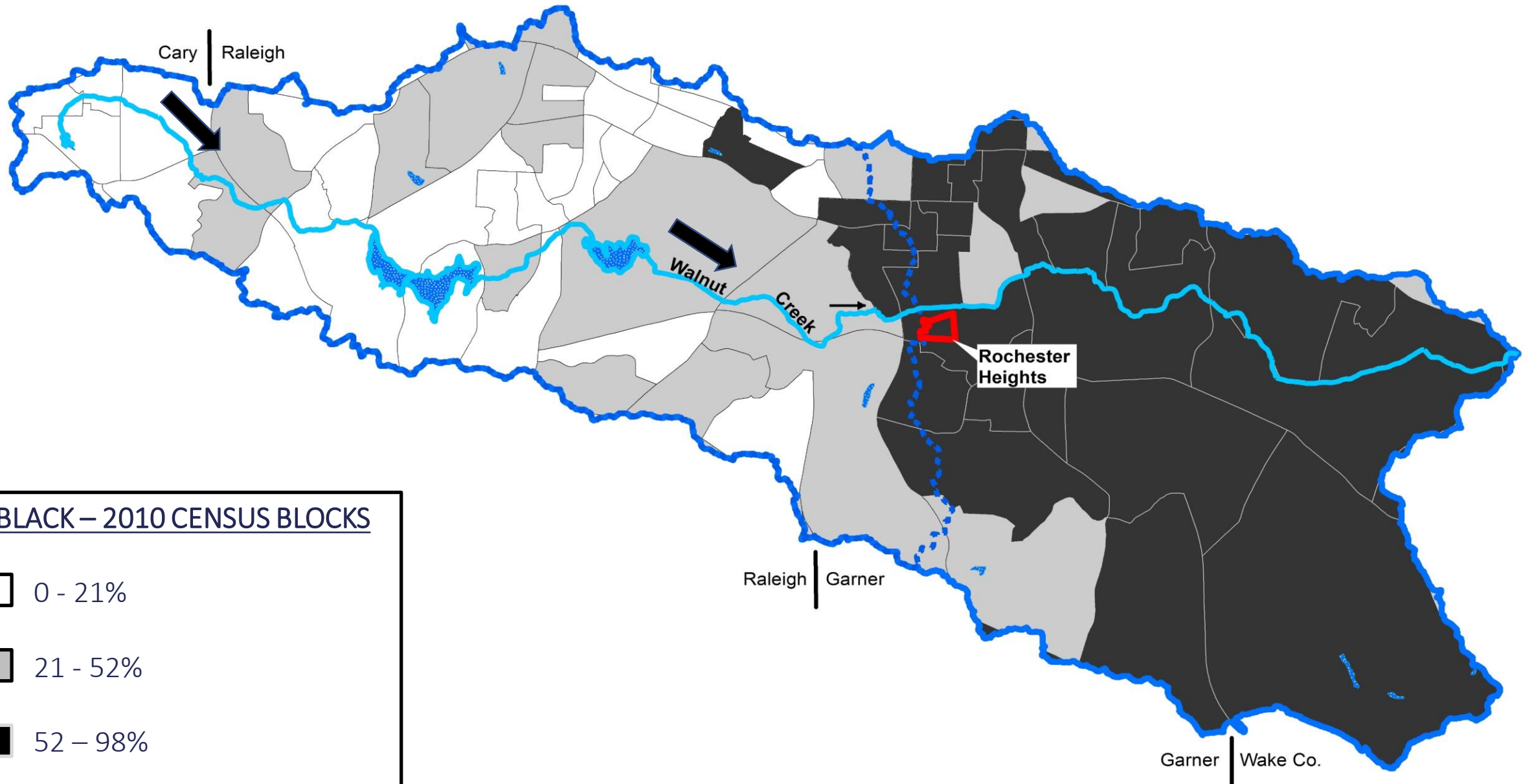


Ecosystem Degradation > Restoration

08/11/2017



# DEMOGRAPHIC SETTING



Sources: USGS, Wake County GIS

# PART I: DOCUMENT VISION (1998)

## Walnut Creek 2000

*A project for environmental justice*

*sponsored by the Episcopalians for Environmental Justice Committee*

### Committee Mission Statement

*The mission of this committee reflects the ministry of the Church by educating, inspiring, and assisting individuals and organizations of diverse cultures to conserve the Earth's natural resources and protect the Earth's ecosystems in order to achieve a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future in keeping with the following definition: "Environmental Justice is the equitable participation in and benefiting from responsible decisions regarding action toward environmental protection and health, and the joy derived from sharing a clean and vital environment with all God's creatures." This committee shall accomplish this mission by establishing environmentally sound practices in the community by promoting leadership and action within the community. Realizing the importance of diversity, this committee strives to include all peoples in developing appropriate environmental solutions, and encourages collaborative projects among churches, schools, industry, and others in the community.*

### Goals of Walnut Creek 2000

1. To promote environmental conservation, community beautification, and civic pride for residents of the Walnut Creek drainage basin including the Rochester Heights community, St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Fuller Elementary School, Carnegie Middle School, and Women's Correctional Center in Southeast Raleigh.
2. To increase community awareness of, and involvement in, environmental issues which negatively impact the community.
3. To promote the appreciation and love of the environment as God's Creation to be shared equitably with all living creatures.

### Project Summary

This project was initiated to resolve these issues: to restore a wetland to its former natural state prior to numerous years of abuse and environmental neglect; to establish the wetland as a natural park, for providing native wildlife a healthy habitat and for providing the local community with a valuable recreational resource; to incorporate the wetland park into the City of Raleigh's Greenway System; and to improve the quality of life in the Rochester Heights neighborhood, a generally poor community without significant voice at the Raleigh City Council, which presently is regularly flooded by moderate rainfall due to poor stormwater control which has not kept pace with development in the surrounding area.

## Walnut Creek 2000 Urban Wetland Educational Park



*Partners for Environmental Justice*

### MISSION

The mission of the *Walnut Creek Urban Wetland Educational Park* is to promote understanding and protection of an urban wetland, enhance community pride, and encourage economic development.

The park provides an accessible quiet zone for communing with nature. It preserves the natural beauty of the wetland, protects the habitat of numerous species, and lifts the spirits of those who visit through educational and recreational experiences.

Walnut Creek 2000

## Urban Wetland Educational Park

*Partners for Environmental Justice*





# PART II: VISIONARY LEADERS





# PART III: INVITATION

## WALNUT CREEK 2000

### Open Community Meeting and Workshop

Wednesday September 16, 1998 7-9 p.m.  
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church  
816 Darby Street

### EVERYONE IS INVITED!

A Walnut Creek 2000 Community Committee  
has been formed to discuss the future of  
the Walnut Creek Wetlands  
next to Rochester Heights, Raleigh.

The Committee is working with N.C. State University and  
other community groups, and invites you  
to come along and help plan  
the future of the Walnut Creek Wetlands.

For more information, please call Frank Gose at 557-6477



## WALNUT CREEK 2000

a project sponsored by  
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### CLEAN-UP DAY

OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2000

Meet at 8:30 AM

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church  
813 Darby St., Raleigh

*Please come out and help clean and restore  
the Walnut Creek Wetland!*

*Let's clean our Earth and our community!*

Note to Parents/Adults: Neither Partners for Environmental Justice nor the City of Raleigh accepts liability for injuries or other mishaps that occur during this event. Youth participants (ages 12 - 17) must be accompanied by a parent or adult who accepts responsibility for them in case of accident. The adult accompanying the youth will be asked to sign an agreement the day of the event waiving the committee's and city's responsibility for liability and accepting all responsibility for youth's participation by the adult. No exceptions will be made.



# PART IV: IMPLIMENTATION (2001)





# TREE PLANTINGS 2001





# PART V: MOBILIZATION





# COMMUNITY CLEANUPS



## 2006-2017

- ❑ 57 tons of trash
- ❑ 2,325 Volunteers
- ❑ 6,920 Volunteer Hours
- ❑ \$143,022 (~4 FTE)

## 1996-1998

- ❑ 600 Tires
- ❑ 40+ TV's
- ❑ Fridges, Mattresses, Industrial Waste, Fire Extinguisher, Bicycles





# PART VI: CELEBRATION!

Groundbreaking: July 15, 2008

Dedication: Sept 29, 2009





# EPA URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNER LOCATION

4/21/23 Dignitary Event

4/22/23 Community Event





**CONTACT INFO:**

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Dr. Norman, Betty & Norm Camp Jr w/ PEJ Board Members @ Walnut Creek Wetland Park, May 2018