

# ***Introduction of the Watershed Improvement Plan for Moores Creek, Lodge Creek, Schenks Branch, and Meadow Creek***



The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in cooperation with local partners will host a public meeting and discussion on September 20, 2012 on a watershed improvement plan for several streams in the Charlottesville City and Albemarle County area.

This meeting will introduce the **Watershed Improvement Plan** which details how Moores Creek, Lodge Creek, Schenks Branch and Meadow Creek can return to a healthy condition. These streams do not host as rich and diverse aquatic life population as they should. During a state-directed water quality study which took place from October 2010 to March of 2012, sediment was determined to be the pollutant of concern in these streams. Sediment, also known as dirt, soil, and mud, was determined to be coming primarily from urban and suburban sources, such as driveways, parking lots, and roads.

After determining the sources of sediment, a committee representing interested agencies, organizations, and local citizens began working on a **Watershed Improvement Plan** detailing ways to improve water quality in Moores Creek, Lodge Creek, Schenks Branch and Meadow Creek. Recommendations include:

- **Planting trees along waterways to provide filtration and shade for the river**
- **Storing rainwater during storm events and then using it on gardens and lawns**
- **Restoring eroding streambanks to a natural condition**
- **Establishing raingardens to encourage rainwater to infiltrate into the soil rather than wash off or contribute to erosion**

The meeting will feature a panel discussion of local agencies and organizations that are working together clean up local streams. The meeting will be held on **Sept. 20 at 6pm** at the downtown **Albemarle County Office Building** (Room 241) at **401 McIntire Rd** in **Charlottesville, VA 29902**.

**Everyone is welcome to attend, learn more about these issues and easy ways to improve water quality in Charlottesville and Albemarle area streams!**

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