



Legislation Text

File #: 20-0457, Version: 1

Item:

Budget Ordinance Amendment No 21BCC000031 recognizing \$16,000 in grant revenue from the Burt's Bees Foundation and Supporting the Expenditure for an Ecological Modeling Study in Durham County's Upper Neuse River basin

Date of BOCC Meeting: September 14, 2020

Request for Board Action:

The Board is requested to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No 21BCC000031 recognizing \$16,000 in grant revenue from the Burt's Bees Foundation and supporting increased expenditure for an ecological modeling study in Durham County's upper Neuse River basin.

In 2019, an ecological habitat modeling study was completed for the Eno-New Hope study area in Durham and Orange Counties involving a consortium of land trusts, local governments, non-profits, and Duke University. This first study was funded with support from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and administered by the N.C. Botanical Garden. It was presented to the public at Orange County's Environmental Summit (<https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/eno-new-hope-plan/>) in December 2019, and to several Durham Boards and Commissions. This previous study covered the southwestern portion of Durham County and the Burt's Bees Foundation grant will allow the completion of a similar study in the remainder of Durham County. The study is anticipated to identify significant habitat corridors and yield ecological recommendations that may be helpful for the Durham Comprehensive Plan update, and well as to help prioritize open space protection efforts in the upper Neuse River basin.

The Durham community is fortunate to have the Burt's Bees corporate headquarters in downtown Durham. The Burt's Bees Foundation prioritizes funding projects that support community resiliency as well as ecological health, with a focus on the Durham community. Past local recipients have included the John Avery Boys and Girls Club, Farmer Foodshare, the Eno River Association, Triangle Land Conservancy, and the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association. The project will be guided by an advisory committee and will be shared with a broader stakeholder group including Durham's Environmental Affairs Board, Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, land trusts, and City/County Planning staff. The study will get underway this fall, with results anticipated in late spring 2021. No financial match for the grant is required.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This grant and environmental study supports Goal 4: "Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity" as well as Goal 5: "Accountable, Efficient and Visionary Government"

Resource Persons: Jane Korest, Division Head, Open Space and Real Estate, Celeste Burns, Open Space Coordinator, Peri Manns, Deputy Director - Engineering and Environmental Services

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No 21BCC000031 recognizing \$16,000 in grant revenue from the Burt's Bees

Foundation and supporting increased expenditure for an ecological modeling study in Durham County's upper Neuse River basin.

County Manager: _____