



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### AREA CREEKS TO BE EXAMINED FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

RALEIGH — An environmental consulting firm helping to develop a water quality improvement plan for Rutherford County waterways will begin its examination March 8 of creeks in the Cathey's Creek watershed.

The firm, EarthTech, will perform the study under a contract with the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program. EarthTech personnel will walk in and along streams to measure the severity of eroding streambanks, to evaluate the types of plants and trees growing along the streams and to assess the quality of habitat for fish and other aquatic life in the stream channels. Work on the project is expected to conclude in April.

Streams in the Cathey's Creek watershed include Hollands Creek, Lewis Creek, Harris Creek, Mill Creek, Cherry Creek, Reynolds Creek and Case Branch.

Data accumulated in the project will help determine what actions may be needed to restore the health of the waterways. EEP will develop a final non-binding restoration plan for the watershed as part of an ongoing public process begun in June. The N.C. Division of Water Quality designates both Cathey's Creek and Hollands Creek as impaired waterways.

EEP was established in 2003 to provide high-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection. The initiative produces detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within North Carolina's threatened or degraded watersheds.

More information about the Cathey's Creek watershed plan is available by contacting Kristin Cozza with EEP at 704-572-0955.

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