Financial Reimbursement for Property Erosion Available

Lakeside erosion and impaired waterways cost several Grove Park residents expensive fees in landscaping contracts to modify property. Now residents may receive financial relief from Durham County and the State of North Carolina in the form of two different grant options.

Both grant options were discussed at the July 14, GP Grounds Committee meeting presented by Michael Dupree of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District. Over 70 Grove Park residents attended the meeting in hopes of researching financial reimbursement for fixing their property issues. Residents may choose to apply for either the federal grant program #319, and work together as a single neighborhood entity with a target award of $300,000, or to apply for individual homeowner relief through the NC Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). Both grants require an official property assessment report and project plan drafted by the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District. Grove Park residents should contact Dupree’s office (919.560.0558) to schedule an appointment for their free property assessment.

Upon receiving your assessment report, Grove Park residents should make a copy and forward to Elite Management to coordinate administrative efforts for the neighborhood’s grant application process under federal program #319. Residents applying for the individual CCAPs program should likewise forward a copy of their reports to Elite to help document the neighborhood-wide efforts in erosion and fertilizer deposition reduction.

Both grants provide up to 75% percent reimbursement to residents for implementing “best management practices” (BMP). Each BMP is assigned a point total and dollar value for reimbursement regardless of party performing the work. BMP projects can range from installing cisterns/rainbarrels, building riparian buffers and backyard rain gardens, to five other projects which capitalize on using specific vegetation schemes to stop runoff and digest excessive fertilizer nitrogen and phosphorus levels which have contaminated Grove Park’s lake and created its current, excessive E.coli levels. If approved for a federal grant, Grove Park may also have the ability to sell its awarded conservation credits to area businesses to fulfill their building construction conservation credits requirements. This means extra revenue for Grove Park!

The long-term effect of fertilizer runoff into Grove Park’s lake, which feeds into Little Lick Creek and Falls Lake, is an increase of cost of water treatment for Falls Lake, which provides drinking water to other nearby municipalities. Dupree cautioned Grove Park residents that they should expect to eventually tremendous hikes in their Durham water bills if the lake and creek pollution problems are not controlled during the next ten years.

On August 27, 2011, GP Grounds Committee and GP Garden Club will co-host another communitywide meeting to present one of the BMP recommendations for Grove Park residents. Keynote speaker will be Michelle Wallace of the NC State Extension Office who is also heading up the Briggs Avenue Community Garden project. Please email your meeting RSVP to Elite Management.