



SAY NO TO OLIVE BRANCH RESERVE NORTH

The Durham City-County Planning Board unanimously voted **NO** to this proposal in **January 2024.**

More than **280** townhomes will replace another 87-acres of forested land.

87 acres on Martin Branch, the most consistently polluted creek Sound Rivers has documented in the entire Neuse watershed.

Another Durham waterway is at risk!

Durham City Council will be weighing yet another proposal that will negatively impact Durham’s waterways: the city is considering rezoning property on Olive Branch Road from rural residential to planned development residential.

What does this do? It creates more suburban sprawl, adding more residential homes in a place with no civic institutions, shops or resources in a walkable, bikeable or short driving distance, which does not comply with the mixed residential neighborhoods laid out in Durham’s Comprehensive Plan. It also paves the way for developers to clear-cut 87 acres of forested land on Martin Branch, directly across the street from another development currently in litigation for sediment pollution.

Over a year of testing (18 separate occasions), Martin Branch has failed to meet state standards for healthy surface waters. This is an already degraded creek, and more land-clearing will only add to that – with devastating impact.

Sediment pollution destroys aquatic habitat and impacts aquatic life. The sediment pollution documented in Martin Branch flows downstream to visibly pollute Lick Creek, which, in turn, flows into and pollutes Falls Lake, the drinking water supply for much of Wake County.

Until the City of Durham enforces and effectively measures what their ordinances are supposed to do, the city must say NO to more development that harms your waterways!

Durham City Council must vote against the Olive Branch Reserve North proposal because it’s another example of irresponsible growth in an already heavily impacted location.

Learn more at soundrivers.org

