



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

TRANSMITTAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

To: David Andrews, Town Manager
Town Council

From: Randy Dodd, Stormwater Utility Manager

Through: Joe Guckavan, Public Works Director

Cc: Heather Holley, Stormwater Specialist
Emily Cochran, Stormwater Administrator

Date: March 30, 2021

Subject: EPA 319 Grant Opportunity

Summary

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information regarding a proposed 319 grant application.

Information

What is an EPA 319 Grant?

Through Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides states with funding to reduce nonpoint source pollution. North Carolina has received \$1.2 million for competitive funding of watershed restoration projects for the current cycle. State and local governments, interstate and intrastate agencies, public and private nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for 319 funding. An interagency workgroup reviews the proposals and selects those to be funded.

What will a 319 Grant fund?

Funds may be used to conduct projects such as stormwater and agricultural best management practices and restoration of impaired streams. Section 319 grant projects must be used to help restore waterbodies currently impaired by nonpoint source pollution in areas with approved watershed restoration plans.

What does Bolin Creek watershed restoration involve?

EPA's 319 program identifies "9 elements" of a watershed restoration plan. These are

1. An information/education component
2. A monitoring component
3. Identification of the causes (stressors) and sources or groups of similar sources that need to be controlled to reduce pollution
4. Identification of the needed restoration measures.
5. An assessment of the improvements associated with the chosen actions
6. Criteria used to determine whether substantial restoration progress is being made

7. An assessment of the resources (technical, financial) needed and authorities that will be relied upon, to implement the plan.
8. A longer term implementation plan and schedule
9. Identification of interim, measurable milestones to track progress in achieving restoration goals.

The Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (2012) was directed by these 9 elements and provides a comprehensive framework for restoration work. In addition, 319 funding heavily relies on “measurable results” of improvements. This involves water quality/water resources based metrics.

What is proposed in the application?

The purpose of the proposed project is to stabilize soils and an eroding gully in a small catchment draining three adjoining neighborhoods both for its inherent importance and as a highly relevant demonstration for broader watershed restoration efforts. This project would restore approximately 700 linear feet of an ephemeral channel and treat stormwater runoff from 11 acres in the Bolin Creek watershed right at the upstream extent of where Bolin Creek is recognized as an impaired stream. The ephemeral channel directly conveys untreated stormwater from adjacent properties into Bolin Creek. The project area includes land owned by three homeowner’s associations (Phase 2 Bolin Forest HOA, Phase 3 Bolin Forest HOA and Forest Court HOA) and an easement of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA). Preliminary design work has been completed/sponsored by the Bolin Forest Phase II and III HOAs and reviewed by all project partners. The project will be a partnership between the Homeowner’s Associations, Orange Water and Sewer Authority, Orange County, the Friends of Bolin Creek, the NC Cooperative Extension Service, UNC, the local school system, and the Town of Carrboro. There will be extensive volunteer work and publicity and outreach to fully leverage the grant funds. Land use in the Bolin Creek watershed, and especially in the upper Bolin Creek watershed, is dominated by single family residential neighborhoods, and geomorphic instability is a driver of water quality concerns. This project will be a very important demonstration not only of a creative and effective technical solution for this setting, but of the critical importance of the public/private/nonprofit partnerships needed to address erosion and sediment delivery in small residential catchments and along headwater and ephemeral streams. Considerable attention will be given to sharing solutions with other residents and neighborhoods in the Bolin Creek watershed. Outreach products will also be created that will be broadly applicable for other communities and watersheds.

Additional information about the proposed project scope is available in Appendix A.

Why is this particular project recommended? Where any alternatives available or considered?

This project is recommended because, in staff opinion: it presents a positive step towards watershed restoration; it will be of benefit to the neighborhoods and residents; it is responsive to the RFP and appears to have a good probability of success; it is a good example of what can be accomplished through a broad collaboration; and it promises to have community and watershed wide benefits.

Staff have been interested in identifying/developing 319 grant application projects, have some general ideas for opportunities to consider, but have not had the capacity to fully develop another good 319 project to consider, to date.

What are the match requirements?

All projects must include non-federal matching funds of at least 40% of the project's total costs. For this effort, the match is proposed to be met mostly through in kind from all the project participants, but with some cash match from the HOAs and neighborhood residents.

What is the grant schedule?

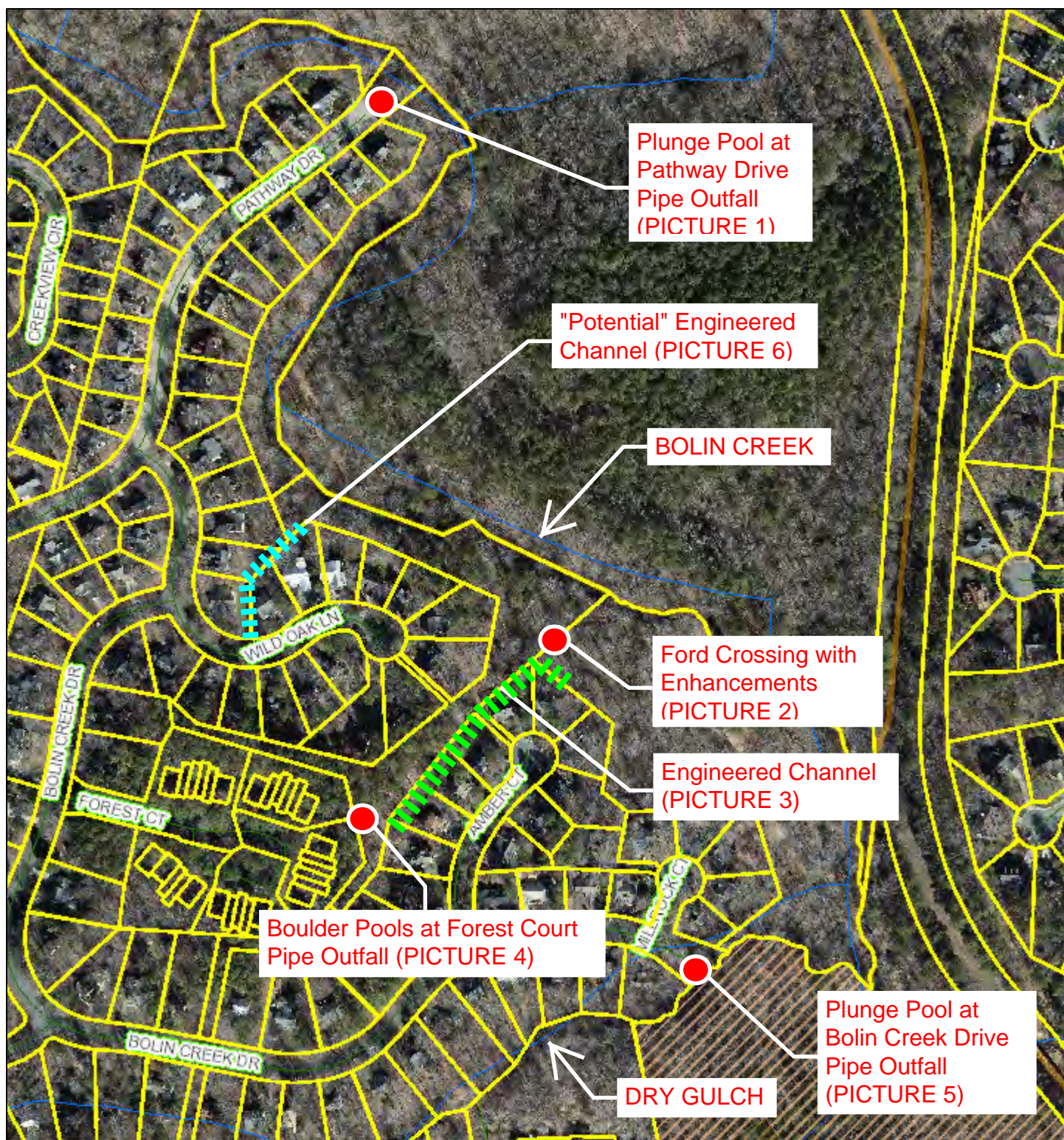
- Late January: Request for Proposals released
- May 4: 319 Grant Application deadline
- Early June: Applicants notified whether they will be invited for in-person interviews
- Late June: Notified applicants interviewed in Raleigh; selected projects announced
- January of 2022: Projects may start (estimated, depending on grant award date to NCDEQ and time for contract preparation)

Additional information about the grant opportunity, including the RFP, application, and review criteria is available at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/nonpoint-source-management/319-grant-program#2021-319-grant-application-materials>. Additional information about the Bolin Creek watershed restoration effort is available at <https://www.townofcarrboro.org/280/Bolin-Creek-Watershed-Restoration>

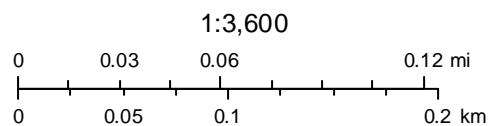
Recommendation

Stormwater staff recommend that the Council adopt the resolution authorizing staff to submit the 319 grant application for the project described above.

Locations of Proposed Stormwater Management Improvements



March 10, 2021





PICTURE 1 – PLUNGE POOL TO BE LOCATED AT PATHWAY DRIVE PIPE OUTFALL



PICTURE 2 – FORD CROSSING WITH ENHANCEMENTS TO BE LOCATED ACROSS OWASA EASEMENT



PICTURE 3 – ENGINEERED CHANNEL TO BE LOCATED ALONG EXISTING CHANNEL (ON RIGHT)



PICTURE 4 – BOULDER POOLS TO BE LOCATED AT FOREST COURT PIPE OUTFALL



PICTURE 5 – PLUNGE POOL TO BE LOCATED AT BOLIN CREEK DRIVE PIPE OUFALL



PICTURE 6 – “POTENTIAL” ENGINEERED CHANNEL (SCOPE BEING REFINED)