

March 21, 2013

Chancellor Harold Martin  
A&T University  
1601 East Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27411

Dear Chancellor Martin:

Enclosed you will find the petition opposing the proposed East Florida Street extension through A&T Farm to McConnell Road.

We were glad to have the opportunity to help this cause and with more time we feel sure we could have had greater success.

Please contact us if there is anything else we can do to help with this cause.

Sincerely,

Friends of Wetlands  
Guilford County, NC

Contact: Melissa Coe 336-273-6832

Chancellor Harold Martin A&T University,

As a concerned resident of Greensboro, I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed East Florida Street extension that would connect the Gateway University Research Park to McConnell Road. I have heard arguments both pro and con, but I have not read or heard anyone address the potential environmental impacts the development of this road would have.

The development and the access for construction would destroy sensitive wetlands that occur in the path of the extension. Wetlands, in general, not only provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, but also protect water quality, provide flood protection, groundwater recharge and maintenance of stream flow, and shoreline stabilization. A soil survey produced by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, shows these wetlands are part of a larger wetland ecosystem of more than 200 acres that runs from South Buffalo Creek to behind the Gateway University Research Park and up to McConnell Road. The wetlands are mostly forested, but also include areas of emergent wetlands.

The proposed road would also have to cross a small perennial stream. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), roads, highways, and bridges contribute significantly to the amounts of pollutants that enter our waterways. Contaminants from vehicles and activities associated with road and highway construction and maintenance are washed from roads and roadsides when it rains or snow melts. The stream flows into the South Buffalo Creek, which according to the City of Greensboro has been rated impaired by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the EPA. Drinking water supply facilities, including Jordan Lake, are affected by the quality of water in the South Buffalo Creek which is a major headwater stream in the Cape Fear Watershed. The City's South Buffalo Creek Wetland project at the headwaters of the Cape Fear Watershed is an effort to improve the water quality of Buffalo Creek. More contaminated runoff downstream will not help this effort.

I believe that common sense and a balanced approach need to be applied when it comes to progress and the environment. More environmental assessments need to be conducted to determine and document the short term and long term impacts of the road will have on the A&T Farm, and the wetland habitats and streams in its path. I hope you will consider these issues. Thank you for your time.

Sources used:

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Web Soil Survey, Version 11, July 5, 2012.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

EPA, Office of Water, August 1995. Controlling Nonpoint Source Runoff Pollution from Roads, Highways and Bridges.

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/roads.html>

City of Greensboro, 2011. SOUTH BUFFALO CREEK WETLAND. <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=2291>

Friends of Wetlands

Guilford County NC

Submitted by Melissa Coe

336-273-6832



## **Chancellor Harold Martin of A&T University and Greensboro City Officials: Stop road extension from E. Florida St through A&T Farm to McConnell Rd**

We the concerned citizens of Guilford County and supporters of North Carolina A&T State University (NCA&T), petition the University Board of Trustees to deny the City of Greensboro's request to extend East Florida Street (a residential street) across NCA&T Farm to McConnell Rd.

We do not believe that the cost incurred to develop the A&T University Farm while destroying other sensitive natural habitats, including wetlands, would benefit Greensboro more than the important role the farm plays in research and education that helps the farming industry of NC worth 71 billion dollars a year employing more than 17% of the states workforce.