



From Murfreesboro's

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## **Lees Spring Branch Study explained during July 29 meeting**

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** -- City engineers will host a neighborhood meeting July 29 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Black Fox Elementary School, 1753 S. Rutherford Blvd., to discuss a new study of the Lees Spring branch watershed.

As part of the City's storm-water runoff prevention program, the study is being conducted for several reasons, said Matt Taylor, Vice-President of SEC, Inc., the engineering firm selected to carry out the study.

Purposes of the meeting include to gain input and insight from the residents in the area and to inform them about the goals of the study, Taylor said. Representatives from the City of Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, and the study team will be present at the meeting to answer questions as well as record any information residents can provide related to past flooding events along Lees Spring Branch or water quality issues such as failing septic systems, color of the stream during storm events and erosion issues, among others.

With extension of the Joe B. Jackson Parkway ongoing construction the development likely to be drawn to the area, Murfreesboro's Environmental Engineer Sam Huddleston explained, need for the study has arisen.

"City staff senses future development pressure in this area because of the growth along Joe B Jackson Parkway and it's connect back to South Church Street," he said. "Most of the elements are in place for this watershed to see significant development, roads, water, sewer and drainage.

"Lees Spring Branch is listed as impaired by the State of Tennessee which means it has some identified or suspected water quality issues, Huddleston continued. "Citywide, we have found the older flood maps can be improved to provide a better planning tool for property owners, city staff, and developers.

Inaccurate or outdated flood maps could be causing homeowners to be paying for flood insurance they don't need because they are not "actually be in the floodplain," he stated.

The Lees Springs study is also being conducted so a protocol can be developed for similar, future studies, the engineer point out.

"It's a fairly small watershed," he said, "so we can refine our study protocol for future waterway studies. "The area is mostly undeveloped or underdeveloped so we can have a significant influence on the (area's) future development and its impact on the watershed by completing this study now."

SEC, Inc. will update the existing flood studies for Lees Spring Branch, now listed as impaired by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, by performing water quality-related testing and modeling to aid in returning the Lees Spring Branch waterway to a healthy and sustaining stream.

Presented in open house format, the meeting will allow those interested to drop by Black Fox Elementary to view a number of stations containing aerial and topographical maps and images, Taylor said. Engineers will be on hand to interpret the maps and answer any questions those attending may have.

The Lees Spring Watershed includes areas from Galahad Drive on the east to Calloway Court to the west and from Lytle Creek on the north to Triple Crown Drive to the south.

For more information, please contact Matt Taylor at [mtaylor@sec-civil.com](mailto:mtaylor@sec-civil.com) with Lees Spring Branch in the subject line.