

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

August 30, 2021  
Notice Issue Date

Stephens County  
City / County

September 29, 2021  
Notice Close Date

BV-127-21-02  
Control Number

Toccoa Falls College  
Toccoa Creek – Streambank Stabilization  
Forrest Drive / Hansen Road, Toccoa Falls, GA 30577  
(GPS Coordinates: 34.593811, -83.354922)

Activity

This notice is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an application for a variance submitted pursuant to a state environmental Law. The public is invited to comment during the 30-day period on the proposed activity. Site plans are available for review and are located in the following EPD office: Watershed Protection Branch, 200 Piedmont Avenue SW, Suite 418 West, Atlanta, GA 30334. Please contact Ms. Arnettia Murphy at (470) 607-2940 or email [arnettia.murphy@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:arnettia.murphy@dnr.ga.gov) to schedule an appointment to review the plans. Since the EPD has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. Written comments should be submitted to: Program Manager, NonPoint Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 1462 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Type of Permit Application: Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.

Applicable Law: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq.

Applicable Rules: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7

Basis under which variance shall be considered {391-3-7-.05 (2)(a-k)}: (a)

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

Severe and continuing streambank erosion along Toccoa Creek on the Toccoa Fall College campus has compromised both Forrest Drive and Hansen Road. The proposed streambank stabilization project will consist of realigning Toccoa Creek (i.e., installing a boulder vane, boulder revetments and toe riprap), grading the eroding streambank to a more stable slope and planting live stake and transplant species (such as *Silky Willow*, *Silky Dogwood*, *Black Willow*, *Elderberry*, *River Birch*, *Serviceberry*, *Buttonbush*, *Tag Alder* and *Sycamore*) with native riparian seed mix, installing curbs and gutters along Forrest Drive and Hansen Road, and installing a *Verti-Block* retaining wall system (or an equivalent retaining wall system) along Forrest Drive. This project will result in approximately 330 linear feet total (10,500 square feet total) of buffer impacts along Toccoa Creek in Stephens County in the *Tugaloo Watershed*.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant: Merlin Schenck, Associate Vice President of Operations  
Toccoa Falls College  
107 Kincaid Drive, MSC 750  
Toccoa Falls, GA 30577

Summary of Rules Requirements for Variance Application:

The application for a variance must include an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan with control measures based on sound conservation and engineering practices which meet or exceed the standards in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia" and which will minimize erosion and deposition of sediments on adjacent lands or into State waters.

For Additional Information Contact: Frank M. Carubba, Environmental Engineer  
EPD Watershed Protection Branch  
NonPoint Source Program  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 1462 East  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
Telephone: (470) 524-2597