



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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South River Watershed Alliance to Launch South River 2020

During its scheduled July 30th membership meeting, South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) will officially launch **South River 2020**, an eight and a half year community-based initiative to build community efficacy and sustained community involvement in the DeKalb County consent decree process. Doug Denton, SRWA vice-president views this process as the catalyst needed to transform South River and an unprecedented opportunity to mobilize the community around solutions to problems that have and are impacting the health of South River. “South River is by far the most valuable and visible natural resource in South DeKalb County and I believe this initiative will chart a new course for the river” states Denton.

The South River 2020 initiative has three ambitious goals: 1) Position SRWA as the community’s leading voice in support of South River and surrounding communities, 2) Create and sustain through education, outreach, and advocacy a culture of community involvement in support of South River, 3) Develop and cultivate partnerships and programs that will help South River reclaim its designated uses of fishable and swimmable.

The South River 2020 initiative is a great opportunity for the entire county to get behind the consent decree. According to David Deganian, GreenLaw attorney representing SRWA in its capacity as a party to the consent decree lawsuit, “The federal consent decree will affect the residents of DeKalb County across the board. Not only by causing an increase in water rates to fund necessary sewer upgrades but also because it forces DeKalb County to stop sewage overflows from occurring in the waters that all

residents rely upon and recreate in. SRWA's intent as a party in this case is to ensure that the Consent Decree is strictly adhered to for the benefit of all the residents in the County.”

The year 2020 coincides with the eight and a half year deadline for completion of the DeKalb County federal consent decree.

In December 2010, DeKalb County entered into a federal consent decree in which the county agreed to take specific actions to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, reported to be as many as 800 over the previous five year period. In March 2011, SRWA filed a motion with the federal court to intervene in the consent decree and in May 2011 approval was given.

The SRWA membership meeting will be held July 30th from 11:00 – 12:30 p.m., at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street in downtown Decatur. Members and supporters of SRWA are invited to attend.