



OCTOBER 2012

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## Upcoming Events

- October 27 - ["Nothing but Tires" South River Tire Round Up](#)
- November 3 - Keep DeKalb Beautiful South River Clean Up
- November 17 - [South River "River Walk"](#) (November 3 River Walk cancelled)

**Explore South River from the PATH Southtowne Trail!**

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## Open Letter to DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis

**Subject: Safeguarding  
DeKalb's Surface Water**

This letter is written to ask that you take deliberate action to safeguard DeKalb County's surface water resources by energizing the county's watershed protection function. On several occasions in recent months – March 13, 2012, during a meeting with you, your chief of staff, and your Department of Watershed Management staff



and again on April 28, 2012, during the inaugural launch of South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) Beyond the Bridge canoe outing project – you voiced your support for SRWA’s work in support of South River and committed the resources of your office to help ensure a positive future for the river. Following through on your pledge will continue to face an uphill battle until surface water protection is accorded equal status alongside wastewater management.

Watershed protection protects lives, property, and the environment of communities by reducing the impact of flood, erosion, and water pollution. Preservation of water quality, safeguarding habitat, and stream and streambank restoration also fall under the umbrella of watershed protection.

Surface water and wastewater are fundamentally different. Surface water is made into wastewater by pollution from untreated or inadequately treated sewage and stormwater. Traditionally, surface water has been used for the purpose of wastewater assimilation. Forward thinking local governments nationwide are moving beyond this narrow focus recognizing that it is inadequate for achieving effective watershed protection.

One of the first actions of a functioning watershed protection unit could be to develop and implement a watershed improvement plan (WIP) for the South River watershed with community-wide involvement.

It has been almost eight months since the March 13 meeting mentioned above during which you committed your support for **an aggressive public education campaign to begin educating the community about the importance of correctly disposing of fats, oils, and grease (FOG)**. You directed your Department of Watershed Management staff to develop a community education plan in consultation with South River Watershed Alliance.

To date, this plan has not been developed. A vitalized watershed protection unit could assume responsibility for the development of a community education plan, as promised.

The many members and supporters of SRWA want South River to thrive and we are certain that you do as well. Elevating the protection of surface water to a level equal to its importance is the forceful step needed to launch watershed protection in DeKalb County. We look forward to your bold action in support of South River and surface water throughout the county.

Jacqueline Echols

## Event Details

### October 27 - [South River Tire Round Up](#)

Illegally dumped tires are the most widespread source of litter in South River. When the water level in the river is low, the number of tires that are visible is astonishing. Plan to lend a hand on October 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and help rid the river of this terrible eyesore. If you cannot commit to the entire four (4) hour event, your help for one or two hours can make a big difference.

Boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes that can get wet are a must. Bring gloves and pointed blade shovel(s) if you have them available. **Gloves and shovels will also be provided the day of the event.** DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management will be on hand to help with moving tires from the riverbank to the pick-up site. Tire recycling will be provided by Liberty Tire Company.

This event may be cancelled due to weather. Please register for this event [here](#) or email your name and phone number to [southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com).

### November 3 - **Keep DeKalb Beautiful South River Clean Up**

DeKalb County Public Works (Department of Sanitation, Natural Resource Management Office, Keep DeKalb Beautiful) is hosting a South River clean up event. The cleanup site will be Klondike Road and the South River. Volunteers are asked to park at Murphey Candler Elementary School at 9:00AM on November 3rd. Vans will transport volunteers from the school to the clean up site and back. The clean up will last until 1:00. Volunteers should bring gloves and wear clothes they don't mind getting dirty. The county will supply everything else. [Contact](#) Keep DeKalb Beautiful with any questions.

### November 17 - [South River "River Walk"](#)

We will explore a section of South River that flows through the City of Atlanta upstream of Browns Mills Golf Course. The river walk promises to be educational and fun. It will be an opportunity for DeKalb County residents to meet upstream neighbors and City of Atlanta residents to meet downstream neighbors. We will meet at the [PATH Southtowne Trail](#) parking lot at 9:45AM for a 10:00AM start time. The walk should cover approximately one-plus mile and take approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours depending on pace and number of stops. Boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes that are comfortable and can get wet are a must.

This event may be cancelled due to weather. Please register for this event [here](#) or email your name and phone number to southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com. See you there!

