

From the Triangle Business Journal:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/blog/real-estate/2015/08/construction-wetrock-farm-durham-nc-organic-farm.html>

Construction to begin soon on 230-acre neighborhood with organic farm

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Durham County's board of commissioners on Monday gave its overwhelming approval to a Durham developer's plan to build what is expected to be the region's first housing community with its own organic fruit and vegetable farm.

Development of Wetrock Farm, on a 230-acre site along N.C. 501 in north Durham, means 141 homes alongside 130 acres of preserved forestland with jogging trails and picnic areas. The property is about a 20-minute drive from downtown Durham.

But the more unique amenity of Wetrock Farm will be its 15-acre, professionally-managed organic farm that will be offered as a food source and educational tool for its residents.

Developer Rick Bagel of Wetrock Resources LLC of Durham says it's the first of its kind in North Carolina. "Our project will exceed other farm-based communities in the country by offering greater interaction between the farm, the residents and the local community."

Read: Idea for Wetrock Farm 'agrihood' inspired by Durham's local food movement

Bagel says he already has letters of intent to sell a combined 74 homesites to two home builder companies from Durham and from Chapel Hill, but he declined to identify the builders until plans were more concrete.

Wetrock Resources, he says, is still working to secure the project's financial equity and debt partners to begin pre-development of the property in fall 2015, and he expects the first homes to break ground in early 2016.

"We couldn't be happier with the way things are coming together both in terms of entitlements and builder interest," he says.

Durham County commissioners on Monday also approved Wetrock's request to build a community water and wastewater treatment facility as part of the subdivision.



C/O WETROCK RESOURCES AND STEWART ENGINEERING
Proposed neighborhood site plan for the Wetrock Farm community in north Durham.

The 69 homes within Wetrock's "farm village" neighborhood are expected to be priced from the \$280,000s. The 26 homes in the "vineyard" neighborhood adjacent to a 6-acre muscadine grape vineyard are expected to be priced from the \$360,000s. The 26 homes in the "woodland" neighborhood are expected to be priced from the \$450,000s, and the 10 homes in the "reserve" cluster will be priced from \$550,000 and up.

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