



## Canal Maintenance Project

The Walnut Island Estates is a waterfront community offering residents access to the beautiful Currituck sound via a system of canals. For many years our Currituck Sound access points have afforded boating residents safe and unobstructed navigation. Over the past several years, these areas have become difficult for boaters owing to the sand and silt build up at the sound edge. Concerned residents have asked to have the two major sound access areas surveyed to determine the cost and methods to open these areas for present and future boaters.

NOTE: (1) All canal front properties extend to the center of adjoining canals. However, navigation of the waterway is open to all and cannot be obstructed (2) All water-view, and interior properties in Walnut Island Estates have unrestricted use of all waterways. (3) All property values are affected by safety, security, and quality of life amenities that attract future residents. A significant quality of life amenity in Walnut Island Estates is our beautiful canal system.

**The WIPOA is dedicated to work that both maintains and improves property values throughout Walnut Island.**

**What's New:** At the September Meeting, the canal maintenance dredging project update was presented to the members in attendance.

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- The plans to remove sand and silt from Dolphin Court area at the entrance to Currituck Sound have been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, NC Dept. of Natural Resources, and Coastal Management (CAMA).
  - Permit Applications have been prepared.
  - A bid for the removal, transport, and disposal of 130 to 150 Cu.Yds. of materials has been received.
  - Total cost estimate for this project is \$35,000.

The costs of this project are based on the lowest bids obtained from surveyors and dredging contractors. Minimal administrative costs for postage and materials are included in the project costs. At this time, the WIPOA is working to develop a plan for financing this project. In addition, the WIPOA is committed to creating a financial framework that will allocate funding for canal maintenance throughout Walnut Island in the future. In doing so, the **WIPOA acknowledges that our canals and water access are the priority asset that defines our community.** The Board will be working to develop a timeline for the completion of work and a funding framework in the new year.



Homeowners throughout Walnut Island have brought forth options for both addressing the need to maintain our valuable canals and financially supporting canal maintenance. The following are proposed options under consideration.

#### **Proposed Funding Framework Solutions**

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- Set-up a canal account that is funded in a manner that is similar to the WIPOA road account with yearly contributions from homeowners.
- Each canal/waterfront property owner to make a minimum contribution of \$150.00 payable to the Walnut Island Canal Fund to finance current project only.
- Recruit and increase membership in Walnut Island- provide information to homeowners so that they understand the power of increased membership and numbers
- Review/Assess current accounts, yearly dues and expenditures
- Further research on community grants and eligibility requirements

**Homeowners are reminded to help maintain our canals by removing debris, trash or loose decking materials in a timely manner.**

The WIPOA meets on the 2nd Saturday each month at 9am. Please join us at the Clubhouse. The WIPOA welcomes assistance with community projects and input on solutions to community matters.

If you are not currently a member of the POA but wish to join, we welcome your participation in our civic organization. Indeed, there is strength in numbers. Our mission is to advocate for the Walnut Island Community as a whole while promoting a safe, well maintained environment for residents. Membership dues are nominal each year. For membership details, please check us out on the web or contact our President, Toni Evans @ 757-536-4210.

If you are interested in joining the WIPOA email group, please contact us through our website.

Check out the new WIPOA website

**wipoagrandync.com**