



## Clean water, clear choice. Don't litter!

The votes are in! Clean water, clear choice. Don't litter will be the Town's stormwater anti-litter campaign slogan. Trash and litter is one of the most obvious and prevalent sources of water pollution in Hope Mills. Over the next year, we will focus public education efforts on the harmful effects of litter on our waterways.



### Why all the fuss about litter?

Litter is one of the most visible and significant sources of pollution in Hope Mills. We see it every day: cigarette butts, fast food wrappers, cans, cups, plastic bags and other trash thrown on the side of the road. It is unsightly and can cause harm to people, wildlife, and our waterways. It encourages pests and can lead to the spread of germs and disease. Litter is wasteful, costly to clean up, and affects the way others view our Town.

### Adopt-A-Drain: Coming Soon!

The Town's new Adopt-A-Drain program is in the works. By adopting a drain, citizen volunteers can help the Town to reduce stormwater pollution from litter and debris. It also helps to reduce flooding problems by keeping catch basins and storm drains clean, allowing water to flow through them with ease.

Be on the lookout for the program kickoff during litter sweep on October 1st!

### How does litter affects our water?

If animals eat the garbage that flows into a water body, it could strangle them or block their digestive system causing starvation. Entanglement in trash and debris can also constrict an animal's growth and circulation, causing a slow death.

Certain types of litter, such as food scraps and other organic items can interfere with the establishment of aquatic plants, affect the reproductive behavior of fish and other animals, contribute to algal blooms, and deplete the water of dissolved oxygen as waste decomposes.

Litter can also clog storm drains and catch basins leading to flooding in streets and roadways.

### What can you do?

- Never throw trash, litter, or cigarette butts on the ground
- Never throw anything out of a car or truck window
- Keep a litter bag in your car
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood
- Securely cover all open loads on trucks
- Be the example for others

Do you have a great idea about how to prevent water pollution? Do you have comments or concerns you would like to share with the Stormwater Department? Feel free to contact us!

Phone: (910) 424-4555

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