

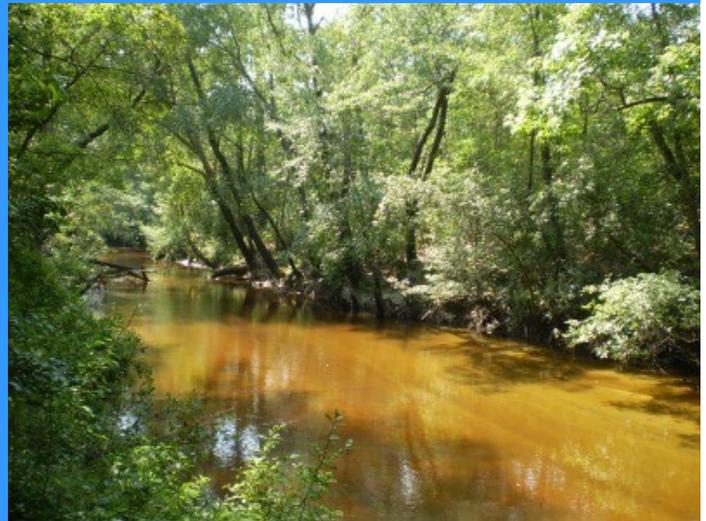


Hope Mills
S T O R M W A T E R
Clean Water, Clear Choice

Hope Mills Stormwater
Clean water, Clear choice.

So what's all the fuss about stormwater anyway?

It is estimated that two-thirds of North Carolina's water pollution is caused by polluted runoff, also called stormwater pollution. This runoff comes from our streets, lawns, and rooftops. It carries dirt, oil, fertilizer, pet waste, and many other pollutants into our streams, lakes, and rivers. Despite what many people think, stormwater isn't treated before it runs into these water bodies. Everything that flows down the drain ends up in our local rivers, lakes and streams.



Our waterways provide drinking water, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. These uses are threatened by the harmful effects of stormwater pollution. Excessive nutrients from pesticides and fertilizers can lead to algal blooms which kill fish and other wildlife.

For drinking water, filtering out pollutants and contaminants increases treatment costs, so we all pay higher water bills or our water is not as clean. When reservoirs fill up with sediment, reservoir capacity is reduced because they are full of silt, not water.

Sediment, the number one source of stormwater pollution in North Carolina buries aquatic insect life and suffocates fish. Sediment also carries other harmful pollutants such as phosphorous that worsen aquatic conditions for fish and other wildlife.

What is the Town doing to improve water quality?



In 2005, the Town received a Phase II Stormwater permit that requires the Town to implement a Stormwater Management Program. This program is based on six minimum measures that include:

- Teaching citizens and business owners about how they can prevent and reduce stormwater pollution.
- Involving citizens in the local stormwater program.
- Investigating and removing unlawful discharges to the stormwater system.
- Controlling polluted runoff from construction sites
- Regulating new development activities to ensure stormwater is treated before it enters local waterways.
- Reducing and eliminating pollution resulting from everyday activities.

How can I help?

These are some quick and easy tips that you can use to prevent stormwater pollution from your home:



Vehicle and Garage

- Dispose of vehicle fluids and other harmful liquids properly.
- Store hazardous materials properly in the original labeled container.
- Dispose of unwanted chemicals at the local hazardous household waste collection site. NEVER pour chemicals down the storm drain!
- Check your car for leaks and have your car repaired when you find them.

Lawn and Garden

- Keep your gutters swept and clear of leaves and debris.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Never apply when the weather forecast is calling for rain.
- Pick up trash and litter around your yard.
- Use drought resistant native plants to conserve water and reduce runoff.

Sidewalk and Driveway

- Sweep litter and debris from the sidewalk and driveway. Hosing these areas down washes debris and litter into the storm drain.
- If you wash your own car, pull your car up onto the grass to avoid washing runoff into the storm drains.

Most of all, be informed and involved. The health of our local water bodies depends on you!

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