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# WATERWAYS

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*WATERWAYS* is a semiannual newsletter to inform Durham residents about various elements of Durham's stormwater management program. Public Education, Stormwater Infrastructure (drainage and flooding), and Water Quality are the three main areas in the Stormwater Services Division.

## School Groups Adopt Streams

### *Free Water Quality Equipment Enables Student Monitoring*

**M**onitoring water quality in a local stream provides hands-on lessons in local ecology, math, geography, and community involvement. Ten Durham educators were selected to receive equipment kits to help with teaching such lessons to their students. The kits were provided by the City of Durham Stormwater Services and the Environmental Affairs Board through a grant from the City-County Results Based Accountability Program. Each educator also attended a training and signed up for Durham's Adopt-a-Stream program.

"I am very interested in teaching our third and fourth grade students about Earth's precious and limited supply of 'healthy' water for plant and animal use," stated Durham Academy Science Teacher Lyn Streck. "As humans, we should all learn at an early age to be



*Learning about local water quality helps students connect science, math, and geography lessons to real community issues.*

respectful of this compound and encourage conservation."

Other teachers cited monitoring benefits that include investigating the effect of fertilizer and weed killer on local lakes, exploring an ecosystem close to school, providing learning experiences that foster compassion and service, and teaching lessons with multiple ties to the N.C. Standard Course of Study.

Forest View Elementary is engaged in a school-wide project to study nearby New Hope Creek. Their primary focus is an area set to become a new regional park. Teachers Linda Tugurian and John Heffernan plan to use their new water quality equipment to enhance their ongoing work at the creek. The Forest View creek study is a model of using the environment as an integrating context for learning. Research demonstrates that students' test scores and attendance improves when they are investigating local environmental issues that tie elements of the curriculum together.

### Adopt-a-Stream Program

Want to adopt a stream near your home? Visit [www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater) or call 560-4326 x235 for more information.



Golden Shiner Level: Biannual visual monitoring and clean-ups.



Brook Floater Level: Monthly visual monitoring and biannual clean-ups.



Piedmont Stonefly Level: Semimonthly visual monitoring, biannual clean-ups, biannual chemical or biological monitoring.

**All levels: Report water pollution to the Durham hotline, 560-SWIM (560-7946).**

## New Mosquito Brochure Available

Wondering what to do about those pesky mosquitoes? Wondering who to call? Stormwater Services has created a brochure to direct Durham residents to helpful resources.



The brochure describes tips for at-home mosquito prevention and explains the role of local government. Key advice includes removing standing water from containers in your yard and cleaning out gutters and ditches. Preventing stagnant water on your property eliminates breeding habitat for mosquitoes.

The City of Durham has no mosquito control program. Durham County General Services works to control mosquito larvae in City/County rights-of-way. Their methods include cutting, clearing, and applying larvicides to standing, stagnant water.

For a copy of the brochure, call 560-4236 x234 or visit [www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater).

## Summer Car Wash Tips

Washing your car on the driveway or street could dirty the water! The stream of sudsy water that drains down the street will end up in a creek. The wash water contains soap, dirt, grease, brake dust, and other chemicals harmful to streams and lakes—our source of drinking water.



The best option is to take your car to a commercial car wash that conserves water and collects all waste water. For a list of car washes that have pledged to

improve environmental practices, visit [www.DurhamEnvirostars.org](http://www.DurhamEnvirostars.org).

If you do wash your car at home, make sure the drainage flows to a grassy area where the soapy water can soak into the ground. Help ensure that *only rain* goes into the storm drain.

## Put Your Pipes on a Fat-Free Diet!

Never pour fats, oils, or grease down the sink or storm drain. Grease poured into the sink builds up in sanitary sewer pipes and causes sewage backups in your home or street. Clogged pipes also may cause raw sewage overflows into local streams. In fact, grease is the number one cause of such sewage overflows. Raw sewage in our waterways is unhealthy for people and aquatic life.



Grease poured down storm drains can clog pipes and contribute to flooding.

Do collect cooking oil and grease and take it to the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center for free. Or, for small amounts, put it in a container to place in the trash.

For more information, contact the City of Durham Water Management Department at 560-4381 or visit [www.durhamnc.gov/departments/wm](http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/wm).