

WATERways

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When to Call the Water Pollution Hotline

Have you noticed a funny color or smell in the creek? Dumping into the storm drain? Oil leaking onto the street? Yard waste blown into the gutter? Call the water pollution hotline. Stormwater Services staff will investigate the issue and help resolve water quality concerns.

Last year, staff found 138 sources of pollution. Sanitary sewer overflows, mobile car wash wastewater, and auto fluids were the most common pollutants. Once a prob-



lem is found, the City works with the resident or business to clean up the source.

Most tips about potential pollution come from City staff. Work-

ers in the field often find problems as they perform repairs and routine inspections. Other tips come from Adopt-a-Stream volunteers and hotline calls. Stormwater Services relies on Durham residents to help identify issues in their neighborhoods.

Learn more about sources of pollution and water quality monitoring results in the annual State of Our Streams report. Remember, only rain belongs in the storm drain.



Thinking about buying a house?

If so, consider drainage, regulated floodplains/waters, and other utilities in or near a property. Learn about your responsibilities and restrictions before you buy.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of any drainage system that is on their land.

In addition, rain water runoff must be allowed to flow onto a property from uphill. Water must also be allowed to flow downhill off the property.

Private storm drainage systems within more recent developments

Tips for Buying Property

are usually located in recorded easements that require property owners to maintain the drainage system. The City is not required to perform any work within such easements.

Things to consider before buying property:

- ◆ Review the property disclosure statement.
- ◆ Check with the HOA to find out if there are additional responsibilities related to community level drainage and/or flooding.
- ◆ Find out if there are any drainage pipes, ditches, or subsurface groundwater sys-

tems such as French drains, foundation drains, or sump pump discharge lines.

- ◆ Walk the entire property and look for signs of drainage issues such as sunken areas, wet areas, or soil erosion.
- ◆ Talk with the neighbors to find out about any past or current flooding and drainage issues.
- ◆ Check if any drainage issues were reported to Stormwater Services for the property.
- ◆ If able and when safe, visit the property during or just after a rain event to see how the property drains.

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Northeast and Crooked Creek Update

Crews have completed field work for the Watershed Implementation Project. City staff and project consultants evaluated 52 existing stormwater control measures and over 100 potential locations for new measures. They also walked more than 30 miles of stream to rate conditions and look for restoration sites.

Visit the Durham Stormwater Facebook page to see photos of field work (and a reptile that helped along the way). Next steps: identify pilot subwatersheds and prepare data to model the benefits of various water quality projects. Stay tuned for meetings and updates via Facebook and the City's website.



Mayor William "Bill" Bell observes workers from the Mayor's Summer Youth Program building a rain garden in the Northeast Creek watershed. If you live in the Third Fork Creek or Ellerbe Creek watersheds, e-mail StormwaterEducation@DurhamNC.gov or call Laura Smith at 560-4326, ext. 30235 to find out about City-installed rain gardens. To find out your watershed, visit Go Maps on the City's website.

Fall Leaves



Compost your fall leaves, or use the City's brown yard waste bin. Do not blow or rake leaves into the street. That clogs storm drains and adds extra nutrients to our streams and lakes.

Contact the City's Solid Waste Department to sign up for yard waste pick up.

Tips for Buying Property, continued

- ◆ Review property records including plats, records of land titles, and land transaction documents (available online at <http://rodweb.co.durham.nc.us/>.)
- ◆ Find out if the property is in a mapped floodplain (check the City's GoMAPS online resource at <http://gisweb.durhamnc.gov/index.html> or the State Floodplain Mapping Information System online at <http://floodmaps.nc.gov/fmis/>). Depending on what you find, you may need to investigate flood insurance options.
- ◆ Check if there are any established easements or buffers that may restrict use of the property or create additional responsibilities for the property owner.

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Public Works Department - Stormwater Services

(919) 560-4326 - www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater

Report Water Pollution: stormwaterquality@durhamnc.gov or 560-SWIM

Design/Construction/Plan Review - Drainage/Flooding Concerns - Floodplain Information

Stormwater Public Education - Surface Water Quality

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act:

Persons who require assistance should call (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254, TTY (919) 560-1200 or e-mail ADA@durhamnc.gov no later than 48 hours before the event.

