

# WATERways

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DURHAM



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CITY OF MEDICINE



CITY OF DURHAM  
Stormwater  
Services

## Working Together for Clean Water

Residents across Durham are doing their part to keep litter, motor oil, pet waste, fertilizer, and yard waste out of our streams.

Members of South Durham Green Neighbors labeled storm drains in their neighborhoods. Hundreds of adults and youth participated in Creek Week and Big Sweep cleanups. Homeowners have installed rain gardens to soak in polluted runoff.

Each action makes a difference in the health of our creeks and lakes. Healthy waterways provide drinking water, serve as homes for fish and other animals, and support family activities like swimming and fishing. Doing your part also helps the City meet state and federal water quality requirements.

### Save the Dates

#### Sustainable Landscapes

**Workshop** - February 4, 2013.

Tips for your home garden projects include smart watering, soil management, how and what to plant, and much more.

**Creek Week** - March 16-23, 2013. Discover and explore local streams and lakes. Join a volunteer project. Visit [www.durhamcreekweek.org](http://www.durhamcreekweek.org) for details.

**No Dumping! ~ ¡No Contamine!**  
Drains directly to creek



**Only rain in the storm drain!**  
**Report pollution 560-SWIM**



### What can I do?

- ◆ Label storm drains in your neighborhood. Label is pictured above (3 hours).
- ◆ Join a Creek Week cleanup or nature walk (2-3 hours).
- ◆ Adopt a stream (2 hours per month).
- ◆ Get involved in a local watershed group.
- ◆ Prevent water pollution at home (see [www.NCcleanwater.org](http://www.NCcleanwater.org) and attend Sustainable Landscapes workshop to learn how).
- ◆ Call the hotline to report water pollution. 919-560-SWIM
- ◆ For more information, call (919) 560-4326, ext. 30235



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.Facebook.com/DurhamNCStormwater](http://www.Facebook.com/DurhamNCStormwater)



## Fall Leaves

Compost your fall leaves, or use the City's 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. For bins call (919) 560-1200.



## Urban Waters Grant

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association is leading a project to develop a green infrastructure plan. The plan will list sites to add water quality features like green roofs and rain gardens.

The work is funded through an Environmental Protection Agency Urban Waters Grant. EPA's Urban Waters program funding supports communities' efforts to access, improve and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land.

Partners include American Rivers, City of Durham Stormwater Services, Downtown Durham, Inc., NC Cooperative Extension, and the Triangle J Council of Governments.

The \$60,000 grant will fund field work, data analysis, plan writing, and project coordination. Target completion date is fall 2013.

## Letting it Grow: No Mow

The City of Durham is giving nature a chance by allowing some stream buffers to return to their natural habitat type. Native trees and shrubs in no mow areas provide a low-maintenance way to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff before it enters a stream.

The deep roots of native plants help anchor the soil and stream-bank against erosion. They clean stormwater by actively pulling nutrients from the water. Also, buffers provide shade and cooler temperatures for fish and other aquatic life. With reduced mowing, the City is saving money that can be directed to other needs.

## Backyard Rain Gardens

Durham residents are benefiting from grants from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the State's 319 stormwater grant program. Mayor's summer youth workers and project partner NC Botanical Garden have put in 40 gardens in the past two years.

More gardens are planned as part of the "Rain Catchers" program in the South Ellerbe Creek watershed. Cisterns and trees are included in Rain Catchers as well.

Each of these "backyard" stormwater features will soak in runoff to help reduce erosion and pollution in our urban streams.



*Above: No mow zones at local parks allow trees, shrubs, and other plants to serve as a natural water quality filter. Below: This 200 gallon cistern captures the first inch of rainfall.*



## Fat Trapper Giveaway

Thanks for a great response to our fat trapper giveaway. We sent 3385 bags to 677 individuals! Missed it? Contact Tyrone Battle at (919) 560-4386 to find out where to pick up yours.

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### Public Works Department - Stormwater and GIS Services

(919) 560-4326 - [www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater)

Report Water Pollution: [stormwaterquality@durhamnc.gov](mailto:stormwaterquality@durhamnc.gov) or (919) 560-SWIM

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

Stormwater Public Education - Surface Water Quality - GIS

### 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](mailto:ADA@durhamnc.gov) no later than 48 hours before the event.

