

WATERways

Volume 17, Number 2: November 2013



Keep it Neat. Leaves and grass off the street!



Want to improve your curb appeal and do your part for clean water at the same time? This fall, compost your leaves or put them in your yard waste bin for pickup. Leaves and grass clippings blown into the street look

messy, clog storm drains, and add unwanted nutrients to our creeks.

The National Association of Realtors Reports that 49 percent of buying decisions are based on curb appeal. Take care of your leaves and grass; your neighbors will thank you!

DO _____

- 👉 Compost your leaves on your own property. Leave grass clippings on your lawn to act as fertilizer.
- 👉 Hire a yard service that properly disposes of leaves.

- 👉 Take your leaves to the City of Durham transfer station for a fee of \$26.50 per ton.
- 👉 Sign up for a City yard waste bin and curbside pickup for a \$78 annual fee.
- 👉 Call the water pollution hotline at (919) 560-SWIM to report illegal dumping or blowing of leaves.

DO NOT _____

- 👉 Blow leaves or grass clippings onto the street
- 👉 Dump leaves or grass into a ditch or storm drain
- 👉 Burn yard waste

Improve your buffer...plant a native tree

Living next to a creek, river, or lake is a big responsibility. Rain-water runoff may wash pollutants from your lawn, car, and street into the stream.

A streamside buffer of plants can help soak in polluted runoff. It can also help prevent erosion on your property. Roots of trees and bushes anchor stream bank soil.

You may be required by law to maintain an undisturbed buffer beside the stream. Buffer rules are in place to protect the creeks and lakes that become our drinking water sources. To check on buffer requirements, call the Durham City/County Planning Department at (919) 560-4137.

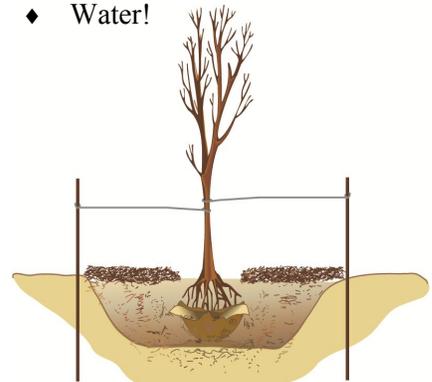
If a buffer is not required by law but you want to be a good stream neighbor, let areas next to a stream go natural. Plant native plants and trees and let the grass next to the stream bank grow taller. Avoid fertilizing the grass next to the stream. Never dump yard waste into the stream.

Visit NCCleanwater.org for buffer tree ideas and tips.

NC State will teach a "Backyard Stream Repair" workshop in Durham on December 12, 2013. Learn how to use grading, matting, and native plants to enhance and protect an eroding stream bank. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/streamrepair>.

Tree Planting Tips:

- ◆ Dig hole 2.5x root ball width
- ◆ Don't plant too deep; keep root flare visible
- ◆ Gently pack soil to remove air pockets
- ◆ Don't add compost to the hole you dig
- ◆ Apply mulch around but not touching the tree
- ◆ Water!



Stormwater Project Updates

Old North Durham Park will reopen later this year following work to improve the storm drainage system, renovate the athletic field, and add new site amenities. The City's Public Works and General Services departments partnered on park construction.

Trees Across Durham is a new partnership between Durham City, County, and community groups to celebrate and advocate for Durham's trees and the many social, environmental and economic benefits they provide. Trees Across Durham will invite residents to plant trees, learn how to care for trees, recognize significant trees, and protect trees from invasive species. To learn more, call the City/County Sustainability Office at (919) 560-7999 or visit www.GreenerDurham.net.

This winter the City will begin work on the **Little Lick Creek Watershed Improvement Plan**. This is the fourth in a series of plans to identify costs and water quality benefits and prioritize projects that will improve the health of the local streams, watersheds, and drinking water supply reservoirs. Little Lick Creek watershed is approximately 22 square miles in area and includes parts of the city between Highway 70 and Falls Lake. Water from the creek flows into Falls Lake and the Neuse River before emptying into Pamlico Sound. Field work to gather data on current conditions will begin in Spring, 2014. Residents will be invited to public meetings to discuss their concerns about the health of the watershed and to hear more about the plan.



Above: Spring rain garden blooms.

The City is completing two grant-funded residential **green infrastructure** projects to install more than 300 rain gardens, cisterns, trees, and downspout disconnections. Over 120 Durhamites have supported this effort to slow down, spread out, and soak in stormwater runoff in their yards.

Save the Date...



January-June, 2014

Charge Ahead Durham: Take charge! Sign up today at ChargeAheadDurham.org to green your life. Cool prizes available.

January 23, 2014

Sustainable Landscapes Seminar: Manage your soils, water use, and plant selection for a greener yard.

February 7-9, 2014

Urban Tree Workshop: Attend 15 hours of training on urban tree planting and care then give back with 15 volunteer hours.

March 15-22, 2014

Creek Week: Stream cleanups, canoe trips, nature hikes, and more activities to enjoy and take care of Durham creeks.

DURHAM



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CITY OF MEDICINE

Public Works Department - Stormwater and GIS Services

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

Report Water Pollution: 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 email ADA@durhamnc.gov no later than 48 hours before the event.

