

WATERways

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Want to help the water? Trees, Yes. Leaves, No.

Fall is an ideal time to plant trees. Roots that have three seasons to establish before the hot, dry summer give seedlings a promising start.

Trees filter water runoff before it enters the stormwater drainage system. This prevents dirt, nutrients, and bacteria from washing into streams and lakes. Trees also reduce the amount of runoff rushing to creeks in a rain storm.

Trees add value to your property and provide shade, beauty, cleaner air, and wildlife habitat. They can protect your yard from erosion when planted along creek

banks. Together with native bushes and grasses, trees act as buffers between pollution sources and waterways.

If trees are so good, why are leaves bad for the water? As leaves decay, nutrients that feed algae enter the water. This reduces oxygen in streams and lakes and can lead to fish kills and bad tasting drinking water.

Streams will always have natural sources of falling leaves. But when too many people sweep or blow yard leaves onto streets, the extra leaves in the drainage system cause a problem.



Doing your part

- www.TreesAcrossDurham.org lists trainings and projects to help keep Durham shady
- Keep it neat; no leaves on the street. Compost them or use your yard waste bin.
- Report illegal leaf dumping: (919) 560-SWIM
- Plant trees, bushes, and grasses near stream banks



Storm drains lead directly to streams. Too many leaves in streams are bad for water quality. Plus, leaves clog the drainage system and can cause flooding. Always remove leaves from the street, storm drains, and ditches.



The City of Durham does not pick up unbagged leaves. Piles of leaves are an eyesore and are dangerous for cyclists. Compost leaves or use City yard waste bins. Call (919) 560-1200 to request a bin. Fees apply.

Third Fork Creek Stream Restoration



The City will repair a portion of Third Fork Creek and the adjacent trail between Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Spreading Oak Court. The project is part of

the City's efforts to improve stream quality in Durham, preserve the trail system, reduce maintenance costs, and prevent trail closures.

Routine flooding and erosion in Third Fork Creek have caused debris and sediment to build up on the trail. Without action, stream and trail conditions will worsen.

Stream restoration includes the repair of creeks damaged by erosion, urban development, or past farming practices. Restored streams result in cleaner water, more stable stream banks and

better habitat for fish and wildlife.

This project will reduce sediment buildup on the trail and protect the trail and foot bridges from damaging storm events. The project is currently under design. When construction begins, a portion of the trail, including the Courtland Drive access, will be closed.

For more information and updates, visit <http://bit.ly/thirdfork> or contact project manager Greg Sousa at (919) 560-4326, ext. 30271 or by email at Gregory.Sousa@DurhamNC.gov.

Little Lick Creek Plan

Progress continues on a plan to identify and rank projects to improve water quality in Little Lick Creek. Field crews assessed 104 stream reaches to record observations and measurements. They also visited 61 existing and 103 potential new stormwater control measures.

Scientists and engineers will use fieldwork results and computer modeling to outline next steps in protecting the Little Lick Creek watershed.

Visit <http://bit.ly/littlelick> for more detailed results.

Save the Date...

March 21, 2015 Creek Week Kickoff: Visit Durham Central Park for an afternoon of art, celebration, fun, learning, and giveaways to kick off a week of cleanups, creek walks, wastewater plant tours & more.

Creek Week brings together neighbors, businesses, and organizations working for clean water in Durham. Last year, participants collected more than 6,000 pounds of trash and recyclables along 16 stream miles, built Dispose-a-Bull out of found objects, installed a rain garden at a school, planted 24 trees, and supported 15 educational and recreational events. Don't miss this chance to discover, explore, and protect Durham's water resources.

www.DurhamCreekWeek.org

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Public Works Department - Stormwater and GIS Services

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

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

Public Outreach- Surface Water Quality - GIS

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

Stormwater Billing: SWSBU@durhamnc.gov or (919) 560-1258

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.

