



# WATERways

Public Works Department, Stormwater & GIS Services Division  
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## Blow or sweep grass clippings back onto lawn



Grass clippings can clog storm drains and cause floods

## Summer lawn care

After you mow the lawn, blow or sweep grass clippings back onto your grass to prevent storm drain pollution. Then, just leave them on the grass to help fertilize your grass. You can also put them in your city yard waste bin or compost them.

Grass clippings left in the road look bad and make the area unsafe for cyclists. They also wash into storm drains and add too many nutrients to our streams and lakes.

### More summer clean water tips...

- Wash cars over grass or take them to the car wash. Don't let the dirty water go down the driveway or into the street.
- Use phosphate-free fertilizer to maintain lawns.
- Carefully follow directions if you use pesticides or weed killers. Do not apply near ditches or creeks.
- Empty rain barrels between storms.
- Take used motor oil and cooking oil to the Waste Disposal & Recycling Center.



Look for a middle number of zero on your fertilizer bag. Learn more! View our short nutrients video at [bit.ly/2manynutrients](http://bit.ly/2manynutrients).

### Public Works Department - Stormwater and GIS Services

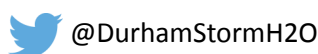
(919) 560-4326 - <http://durhamnc.gov/stormwater>

Design/Construction/Plan Review - Drainage/Flooding Concerns - GIS

Public Outreach - Surface Water Quality - Watershed Implementation

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

Stormwater Billing: [SWSBU@durhamnc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ADA@durhamnc.gov) no later than 48 hours before the event.

# Skip the (plastic) straw

The City of Durham partnered with local non-profits and businesses to screen the documentary film *Straws* by Linda Booker in February, 2018. Mayor Steve Schewel proclaimed March a “No Straws Month” in Durham. The community responded with 242 individuals and 13 businesses taking the pledge to eliminate plastic straws.

Single-use straws are part of a wider problem of plastic trash ending up in the ocean. The trash makes its way from streets through storm drains to rivers and the ocean. Many marine animals mistake plastic for food or digest tiny pieces by accident. By skipping the straw, we reduce pollution at its source.

You can do your part by saying “no thank you” to straws at restaurants. You could also switch to paper or purchase reusable straws made out of bamboo or stainless steel.

**U.S. STRAW CONSUMPTION = ENOUGH TO WRAP AROUND THE EARTH'S CIRCUMFERENCE 2.5 TIMES A DAY!**



Plastic is a substance the earth cannot digest.

**GO STRAWLESS**

to help make Durham pollution free. Take the pledge to omit single-use plastic straws at [KeepDurhamBeautiful.org/straws/](http://KeepDurhamBeautiful.org/straws/)

**#skipthestrawDURM**

## State of Our Streams <http://durhamnc.gov/708>

State of Our Streams is an annual report to city residents about the health and cleanliness of the city’s creeks. The report is based on conditions at about 30 sites across the city. Water quality technicians take samples monthly to assess conditions throughout the year. In watersheds where staff is able to take a wide variety of tests the watershed is also given a grade. This report also covers the types of water pollution found and eliminated in each creek by stormwater investigation and inspection programs.

## South Ellerbe Stormwater Restoration Project Update

The City is planning a stormwater restoration at 808 West Trinity Avenue. The site will be transformed into a space that will be an asset to both the community and the environment. The property is located along a South Ellerbe Creek tributary that flows into Falls Lake.

In spring, 2018 crews began to demolish the building of the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center. Later this year, the project will move into the permitting and design phase.

Residents learned about the restoration and offered input at three public meetings. The project team also gathered comments through two online surveys.

The second public session featured design stations on the topics of (1) Trails, boardwalks, recreation, and overlooks; (2) Natural areas, vegetation, and wildlife habitat; (3) Educational opportunities and public art; and (4) Stormwater retrofits using a watershed perspective of the project.



*Water Quality Analyst Lance Fontaine explains how wetlands act like a sponge to slow down and clean water runoff in a scene from an informational video.*

Public input helped prioritize amenities that will enhance the restoration. Those priorities, such as trail connections and a boardwalk, are reflected in the new concept plan.

The project web page, <http://durhamnc.gov/1616>, hosts a wealth of information, including links to videos, frequently asked questions, the concept plan, meeting presentations, and status updates.