

WATERways

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Flood Insurance Discounts

Durham residents who own property in a floodplain and buy federally-backed flood insurance can now get a 10 percent discount.

The discount is possible through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. The system credits communities whose floodplain management efforts go beyond minimum standards. Durham earned points through public outreach, mapping and regulations, flood dam-

age reduction, and warning and response.

Lower cost flood insurance rates are only one benefit to this program. Durham residents also have more chances to learn about flood risk and to protect their properties. City staff gain access to technical assistance that helps them better protect public property and avoid economic loss from floods.

To learn more, residents can visit



<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>, call their insurance agent, or call Graham Summerson at (919) 560-4326, ext. 30287.

A Plan to Improve Little Lick Creek



Engineering Technician Bill Hailey measures part of a stormwater control device in Little Lick Creek watershed.

Little Lick Creek in eastern Durham is a typical urban stream. Steep stream banks with bare soil, low animal diversity, and muddy water are common traits. These unnatural conditions are

caused in part by high water flows during rainfall. Water rushes to the creek, carving out stream banks and bottoms, because it has no space to soak into ground covered by roads, parking lots, and homes. Historic practices are also to blame. People dredged and straightened streams, cleared land, and farmed without soil conservation practices.

The Little Lick Creek Watershed Improvement Plan will describe and rank projects that can help reverse these conditions. Projects may include land protection, new stormwater control measures such as wet ponds and wetlands, and restoring streams to reduce erosion and improve native tree buffers. Projects will improve water quality, improve watershed health, and create value for com-

munities in the watershed.

The first step in creating the plan was to measure current conditions. In April and May, teams of scientists and engineers walked along 26 miles of the creek to rate 104 stream reaches. Ninety-five percent of the stream reaches were rated as “poor” or “fair.” Field staff also looked for places to improve or build new stormwater control measures. The next steps are to create a watershed model that compares potential actions. The plan will be finished in Spring, 2015.

A public meeting on May 29 gathered input from local residents. Two additional public meetings are planned. For more about the project, visit bitly.com/littlelick or call Sandi Wilbur at (919) 560-4326, ext. 30286.

Clean Water is Good for Business

Businesses that could impact stormwater can now become a STAR to show off the good things they are doing to protect our local water. Benefits include technical assistance, recognition, free trainings, and taking pride in helping to reduce Durham's environmental footprint.

To get started, businesses should visit bitly.com/StormSTAR or call Emily Rhode at (919) 560-4326, ext. 30295.

Here are five basic pollution prevention steps that all businesses can take.

1. Stock Spill Cleanup Kits

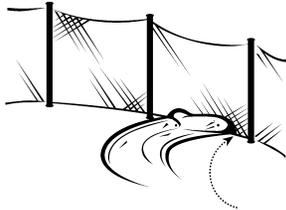
Spill kits contain items for "dry" cleanup. They should include an absorbent (like kitty litter) to put down on spills. Kits also need a broom and dustpan for sweeping up the dirty absorbent and throwing it away.



2. Block dirty runoff

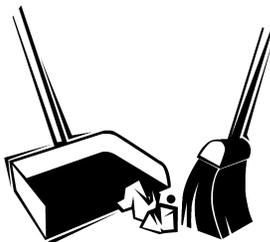
Dirty runoff may be from car washing, spills, surface washing,

or any other outside activity. To keep it from going into the drainage system, block it with a silt fence, sand bags, or filter socks around drains.



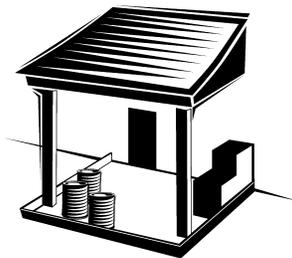
3. Sweep up litter daily

Trash left on sidewalks and pavement washes into storm drains and into creeks, lakes, and eventually the ocean.



4. Store outside items safely

Outside storage includes everything from grease bins to cleaning solvents to waste. Items should be stored so that rain cannot wash away trash, fluids, and other pollutants. Cover barrels tightly and check for leaks weekly.



5. Leaves, grass off the street

Blow leaves and grass clippings off the street and away from storm drains.



If you see a potential water pollution issue in Durham, please report it to the hotline by calling (919) 560-SWIM (7946). Only rain should flow down the storm drain.



Rising Stars are in the process of becoming STAR certified:

Acme Plumbing

Cocoa Cinnamon

DaisyCakes

Forest Hills Service Center

Hi Tech Motor, Inc.

Old Havana Sandwich Shop

The Refectory Café



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.

