

Let It Grow

Giving Nature a Hand with No Mow



Stream Buffers



The City of Durham is giving nature a hand by allowing some stream buffers and other less-used areas to return to their natural habitat type. These sustainable, low-maintenance ecosystems allow trees, grasses, shrubs and other plants to filter pollutants in stormwater runoff before it enters a stream. Other benefits of No Mow practices include:

WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

- ▶ Naturally infiltrate, slow down, and clean stormwater runoff before it enters a creek
- ▶ Native trees and shrubs help protect stream banks, reducing erosion and sediment
- ▶ Native vegetation requires less use of fertilizer, water, and weed killer

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- ▶ Offers places for nature study, public education, and wildlife observation
- ▶ Provides natural screens and noise control
- ▶ Is a sustainable practice to reduce the City's carbon footprint

ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

- ▶ Encourages establishment of native vegetation
- ▶ Increases biodiversity by providing food and habitat for native animals and plants
- ▶ Provides shade and cooler water temperatures for fish and aquatic insects

COST SAVINGS BENEFITS

- ▶ Reduces mower maintenance and fuel costs
- ▶ Reduces staff hours spent on mowing
- ▶ Reduces costs of repairing eroded areas of the stream bank



NO MOW



F.A.Q. | Frequently Asked Questions

► What do the No Mow signs mean?

No Mow signs are installed to mark areas where habitat enhancement efforts are in place. The City may limit mowing within marked areas along some water and sewer utility lines to encourage the growth of native vegetation. These natural areas provide benefits to water quality and the local ecology, and create cost savings to the City and its residents. No Mow areas are being evaluated along some streams, lakes, or other places where natural habitat connections make sense for sustainable natural resource management.

► Why are these areas not being mowed?

When less area is mowed along a stream bank, plants and shrubs are allowed to grow. Plants, especially native plants, provide a natural way to protect the stream bank from erosion. This provides multiple benefits such as helping water quality in our streams and protecting sewer and water utility lines from damage due to erosion. Regular maintenance of utility lines remains a priority for the City and will continue outside of the No Mow areas.

► Where in the City are these No Mow areas?

The City's Water Management and Public Works Departments are working together to find water and sewer utilities lines where No Mow practices would help the most. At this time, there are No Mow areas along utility corridors in Little Lick Creek, Northeast Creek, and Ellerbe Creek.

More information about other Green Infrastructure practices in Durham:



Point your smartphone's QR reader at the QR code, or enter <http://durhamnc.gov/1619> into your Web browser's address bar.

For information, please contact:

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