

# Get to Know the Algal Floway!



## What is it?

An algal floway is a pollution control measure that removes nutrient pollution from a body of water. The City of Durham is planning to use this innovative and cost-effective project to clean out some of the nutrient pollution in Falls Lake.

The floway works by pumping polluted water over a bed of algae. The algae eat the nutrients and make the water cleaner. This cleaner water is then returned back to the lake to be enjoyed by our community and benefit the environment.

## Why do we need it?

Too many nutrients in a lake can cause harmful algal blooms and disrupt the life cycles of animals living in the lake. Nutrient pollution happens when yard waste and fertilizers enter our storm drainage system.

Falls Lake is under specific nutrient pollution regulations. Many local cities and counties work together to meet these regulations through different projects. The algal floway is one way Durham is working to improve the water quality in Falls Lake.

## What does it look like?

The algal floway is a large, rectangular, shallow pool with constantly flowing water. The property will also include a pump and storage house. In order to build an algal floway that removes nutrients efficiently, the City is planning to locate it close to Falls Lake.

Any scent that comes from the algae smells like compost when you're standing next to it. This smell is not noticeable from the lake or off-site of the algal floway.



## How do I learn more?

To learn more and keep up to date with the project, visit our webpage at [durhamnc.gov/4678](http://durhamnc.gov/4678).



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