

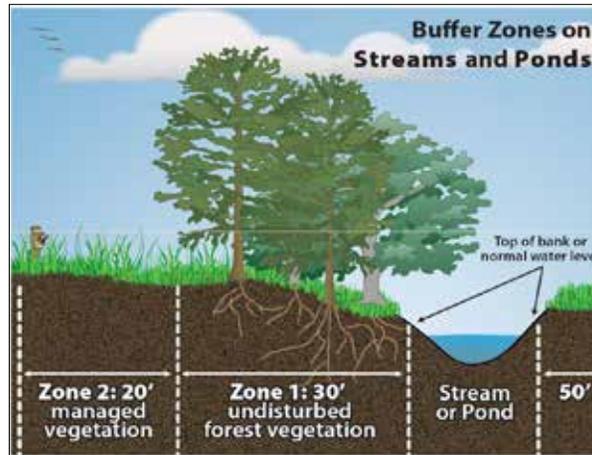
## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

- Make sure you *and your contractors* have proper washout facilities, wash water disposal methods, and/or use storm drain protection for projects such as painting, mobile washing operations, concrete work, and landscaping. Do not use storm drains for disposal.
- Check local floodplain and stream buffer regulations before beginning outdoor projects near ditches, streams, and waterways. Permits may be needed. Call Stormwater Management for direction.
- Never apply—or allow contractors to apply—fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides before a rain storm. Reduce use of chemicals as much as possible.
- Check your home's drainage outlets. Do any pipes run directly into storm drains or creeks? Call Stormwater Management at 919-969-7246 to learn what to do.
- Keep leaves and other yard wastes (grass clippings, branches, pine needles) out of the street and storm drains. Call Chapel Hill Public Works for yard waste collection information and carts: 919-969-5100.
- Bag pet waste and throw it in the trash.
- Prevent erosion! Sediment is the #1 pollutant by volume in North Carolina waterways.
- Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash where wash water is disposed of properly. Alternatively, wash your car in a place where grass will absorb runoff. Do not pour wash water down the storm drain.
- Take household hazardous waste, paint and large quantities of cooking oil to the HHW collection site on Eubanks Road. Call 919-968-2788 or visit [www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling) for details.

**STORMWATER POLLUTION HOTLINE:**  
911 for emergencies  
919-969-RAIN (7246)

**STREAM STABILIZATION:** Streams naturally meander across floodplains as flowing water erodes sediment and re-deposits it. Stable banks are held together by roots of trees and other vegetation. Shade from overhanging trees keeps water cooler, with higher dissolved oxygen for aquatic organisms. If you have streamside land, it is important to keep healthy buffers!

Permits may be required to repair damage within streams. Call Stormwater Management for advice.



## CONTACT US!

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# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



## ENGINEERING AND EDUCATION FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

- Regulatory compliance • Development review process • Technical assistance • Stream determinations • Stream monitoring & restoration • Floodplain management
- Community education and outreach
- Public stormwater infrastructure maintenance and improvements
- Stormwater capital improvement projects (CIP) • Stormwater billing • Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board

# STORMWATER RUNOFF IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN!

## Pollution

Rain and melting snow from impervious (hard) surfaces such as rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, and streets run off into storm drains or channels, directly entering local creeks without treatment. In Chapel Hill, dirt, pet wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, automobile fluids (motor oil, gasoline, and antifreeze), de-icing products, yard wastes, litter, bacteria, and detergents wash off the ground and into creeks leading to Jordan Lake, a large regional drinking water reservoir, recreational area, and wildlife habitat.

State rules regulate how much nitrogen and phosphorous may enter Jordan Lake from its watershed communities. By reducing nutrients, we help to limit harmful algae growth. By reducing improper disposal of other pollutants down storm drains, we make our creeks and lakes healthier ecosystems and protect important drinking water supplies for communities.

Read the tips in this brochure and visit Chapel Hill Stormwater Management's website to learn more about how you can help to reduce pollution.



## Flooding

During very heavy rain, neither storm drain systems nor creeks and their floodplains may be large enough to accommodate all of the water at once. Rain also accumulates in poorly drained, low-lying areas. Damage can occur, and it can be major.

Homes built before floodplain regulations may be in the floodplain or floodway. Local flood insurance maps are located in Chapel Hill's Stormwater Management office, Chapel Hill Public Library and on Stormwater Management's website under Flooding and Drainage.

For more information on flooding, insurance, and flood risk, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).



## Tips:

- Buy flood insurance if you live in a low-lying area, floodway or floodplain. Flood damage is not covered under homeowner's or renter's insurance.
- Avoid flooded streets during heavy rains. Turn around, don't drown!
- Report blocked storm drains in rights-of-way by calling 919-969-5100. Drains on private property are the responsibility of the property owners. Check them regularly and clear out debris.
- Remove all unnecessary impervious surface from your property and revegetate.
- Plant native vegetation on your property and along streams to help soak up and filter stormwater.