

What is the partnership doing?

With funding provided by local governments and North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund, a partnership of sixteen communities in five counties has been created to address storm water needs at the local and regional levels. The partnership is managed by the Centralina Council of Governments in Charlotte. Its activities include:

- Producing videos on storm water issues that are shown twice weekly on television and working with media outlets in the region to promote good storm water practices.
- Distribution of storm drain marking kits and adopt-a-stream supplies to Partnership communities.
- Funding two innovative storm water demonstration projects in Indian Trail and Gaston County.
- The creation and distribution of public education pamphlets.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

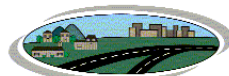
Contact your local agency or visit these websites:

www.ncstormwater.org
www.cwp.org
www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
www.centralina.org

10/08

Storm Water Partnership Communities

City of Belmont—704-855-5546
City of Bessemer City—704-629-5542
Cabarrus County—704-920-2100
City of Charlotte—311
City of Cherryville—704-4351700
Town of China Grove—704-857-2466
City of Concord—704-920-5370
Town of Cramerton—704-824-4337
Town of Dallas—704-922-3176
Gaston County—704-922-4181
Town of Harrisburg—704-455-5614
Town of Indian Trail—704-821-5401
Town of Landis—704-857-2411
Mecklenburg County—311
Town of Ranlo—704-824-3461
Town of Stallings—704-821-8557



Centralina
Council of Governments

Centralina Council of Governments
1300 Baxter Street, Suite 450
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
Phone: 704-372-2416
FAX: 704-347-2710

Storm Water

STOP

*water pollution
before it begins....*

**Only rain should go
down the storm drain**

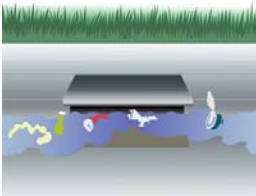
What is Storm Water?

Storm water is rain that washes off houses, driveways, parking lots and other hardened surfaces. It picks up pollution such as detergents, yard waste, pet waste, trash, leaking fluids from cars and washes them into creeks and streams. Storm water becomes an increasing concern in our region as more and more land is developed and rain has an increased chance of “running off” as opposed to being allowed to soak into the ground.



What is the difference between a storm water drainage system and a sanitary sewer system?

Sewer systems collect water from sinks, toilets, showers, washing machines, etc. It is drained into a pipe system that leads to a wastewater treatment plant. Treated water is then released back into creeks, rivers and streams.



A storm drain system is made of man-made storm drains, pipes and ditches that accumulate storm water runoff and drains it into streams and creeks. While water that goes into a sewer system gets treated, water that enters into a storm water system is not treated and flows directly into our creeks and streams.

Did you know?

As the storm water flows over hard surfaces, it can pick up anything in its path—oil, dirt, litter, leaves. As a result, storm water runoff often contains pollution levels that exceed acceptable health and water quality levels. Unfortunately, all this storm water pollution ends up in our creeks and streams.



Fertilizers and herbicides should be applied in moderation! Excess amounts can be carried away by storm water, end up in water bodies and increase the amount of nitrates and phosphates in the water.

Oils and grease poured into a storm drain can reduce the drainage system’s capacity. When it enters a water body, it blocks sunlight and decreases the oxygen which is needed by underwater plants and animals.

Soaps and detergents that enter into the storm drain system and go into water bodies coat fish gills and can suffocate fish and other aquatic animals.

Yard waste can contain fertilizers and herbicides. Leaves can clog storm drains and can result in standing water and flooding.

Pet waste contains dangerous bacteria and high levels of nitrates and phosphates. This can have negative effects on plant and animal life in our water bodies, but also increases bacteria (*E. coli*) levels in water making fishing and swimming dangerous.



What can you do?

- ◆ Pick up trash on the ground even if it is not yours. By doing so, you are preventing it from entering into the storm drain system.
- ◆ Plant a tree—it helps reduce storm water runoff! Trees that are native to NC are easier to maintain and require less fertilizer.
- ◆ Don’t pour grease and oils into a storm drain.
- ◆ Pick up after your pet every single time.
- ◆ Allow grass clippings to decompose naturally on the lawn, it fertilizes the lawn and helps reduce clogged storm drains. You can also compost your clippings and leaves.
- ◆ Recycle or properly dispose of chemicals and automobile fluids and oils.
- ◆ Wash vehicles and machinery over your lawn or at a commercial carwash and not over paved surfaces.
- ◆ Make sure your dishwasher, washing machine, sinks and showers are properly piped to the sewer system.
- ◆ Regularly maintain and repair your septic system to avoid malfunctions.

