

STORMWATER NEWS

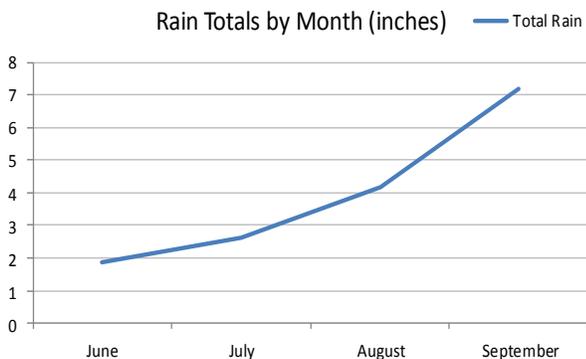
Town of Spring Lake, North Carolina

Fall 2014

Remember: It's not just stormwater ... it's your drinking water

Welcome Message

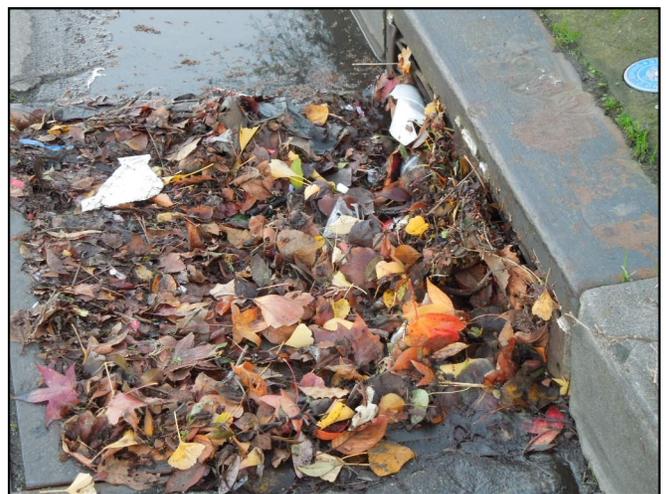
The summer season came and went bringing the usual heat and humidity that overwhelmed the area, although not as bad as recent years. Summer also brought the usual cycle of heavy thunderstorms that inundated us with brief periods of heavy rain. This year's rain started off light in June and July but increased as summer closed out (September had over 7 inches of rain).



During these rain events the biggest problem is trash and debris washing onto the storm drain inlet grates blocking water from entering and creating “artificial ponding” that flood the road ways. Stormwater staff diligently worked to keep the grates clean in order to prevent clogging, collecting up to 5 -10 trash bags full of litter and debris after each rainfall event. This by itself is a very good reason to keep lawn clippings out of the street and to pick up any trash you see lying on the ground, in addition to the aesthetic value of keeping our town beautiful. The rain was also a very visual way to locate any issues with drainage in town leading to several areas being added to the “maintenance list” for future correction. As always if you see any drainage issues in your neighborhood please let us know so

they can be fixed before causing any major issues.

Also over the summer we started the process to bring back the stormwater advisory committee when the Board of Aldermen adopted updated bylaws. At the beginning it will be a five member committee with the possibility of future expansion as the need arises. This committee is composed of residents of the Town of Spring Lake that meet to discuss the current status of the stormwater program as well as future projects that move it forward. The meetings will be open to the public as a public forum for residents and business owners to voice any issues, ideas and feedback about the stormwater program. We are now soliciting for new committee members so if you would like to volunteer to assist with the development of the stormwater program and help the community please fill out a stormwater committee member application located on the website (<http://www.spring-lake.org/documents.html>) or by visiting town hall.



Storm Drain Grate blocked by debris...trust me there is a grate under all that.

Autumn Leaves

Now that cooler temperatures have arrived, we will all be spending more time outside enjoying the weather. Unfortunately, cooler temperatures also mean that the leaves have begun to fall, creating work for everyone. Since these leaves can block stormwater inlets and pollute local waterways here are some tips on dealing with the leaves when they hit the ground.

Because leaves are a good source of mulch, the best thing to do is to rake or blow the leaves into natural areas. This will keep the ground moist which is good for growing plants and shrubs, as well as preventing erosion of the soil. Bare soil is very susceptible to erosion by stormwater so the more it is kept covered; the less erosion will take place. Keeping the ground covered with leaves will also prevent weed growth, as the weeds will not have soil to root into.

Ideally, leaves should be used on the property where they fall in order to return nutrients to the ground through composting. However, most properties will have more leaves fall than can be used on their property, so another method of disposal must be used. The Town of Spring Lake Sanitation Department will pick up leaves and yard debris that is placed in piles near the curb (please do not place in a bag, however covering with plastic or tarp is acceptable) on a weekly basis.

Leaves should never be disposed of by being blown into the street. Not only can this be an eye sore for the neighborhood, it can also wreak havoc on the community storm drains. Once in the street, leaves will eventually be washed into the storm drain

system where they can cause clogging and even flooding of the system. When the leaves eventually pass through the system, they can cause sediment and debris buildup in ditches and creeks. This buildup adversely affects the wildlife living in and around the streams.

Composting leaves and yard debris is an easy and effective way



to transform these seasonal fragments into nutrient- rich, water-saving, soil enrichment. Composting leaves and yard debris also helps save landfill space, conserves natural resources, and improves soil quality. And come springtime, you may end up reducing your need for expensive commercial soil additions for your garden.

Preventing leaves from being put into the storm system and disposing of your leaves properly is a crucial step in preserving the system and maintaining water quality for the future.

Litter/Roadside Trash

The easiest way everyone can contribute to water quality in our neighborhood and community is to reduce the amount of litter and trash on our streets. Trash and litter on the streets is washed through the stormdrain to the nearest streams and water bodies without being treated. How can you help? Follow these simple tips:

- **NEVER** throw litter on the street. Trash-laden gutters increase neighborhood pollution and clog storm drains causing street flooding and traffic congestion.
- Make sure trash cannot blow or fall out of trash containers, so it does not become litter and wash down storm drains.
- Always bag trash before placing it in trash containers to prevent litter during automated refuse collection.
- Ensure that recyclables cannot fall out of bins.
- Keep a bag in your car to dispose of trash instead of throwing it out on the street.
- Volunteer during the Spring and Fall Cleanup events held in Spring Lake
- If you see litter, pick it up and throw it in a nearby trash receptacle. If everyone did this for just one piece of trash a day we would be more than halfway to correcting the issue.



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