

STORMWATER NEWS

Town of Spring Lake, North Carolina

Spring/Summer 2015

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

Welcome Message

The Town of Spring Lake would like to thank everyone who stopped by the Stormwater information booth at the Spring Fling held on April 18, 2015. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with the residents and business owners about how stormwater runoff affects the environment as well as tips and practices we can all do to reduce pollution in our streams and water bodies. We hope the information was educational and able to be applied to your everyday life to help make Spring Lake an even greater place than it already is.

The Town also held its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, April 25. As always, it was a huge success with just under 3,000 pounds of material collected. The waste collected will be taken to facilities to either be recycled or disposed of in a way that will not adversely affect the environment.

If you have any suggestions or feedback about either the Spring Fling or Household Hazardous Waste Collection event available please let us know by contacting Tim Garner, Stormwater Administrator, at tgarner@spring-lake.org. We are always looking for ways to improve our service to the community.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

“Green” Lawn Care

Caring for your lawn properly can both enhance its appearance and provide environmental benefits. Healthy grass is a feeding ground for birds, while also preventing soil erosion, filtering contaminants from rainwater, and absorbing many types of airborne pollutants. These tips will help you achieve a healthy lawn while minimizing negative impacts caused by improper lawn care.

All of us live downstream of other communities and we don't want them sending their pollutants to us. We also live upstream of someone else's community and we have a responsibility not to send our waste to our downstream neighbors too.

Products like pesticides and fertilizers are one of the biggest sources of pollution in our waterways. When these products are applied on lawns, they get washed away with stormwater which isn't treated before it reaches local waterways.

- When necessary, use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and follow manufacturer's directions. Excess is washed into streams where it pollutes the water.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Grass clippings naturally fertilize your lawn.
- Don't leave or sweep clippings or other yard waste in the street, on sidewalks, driveways or parking lots, especially around storm drains. Clogged drains cause maintenance and flooding issues.
- Don't over water.
- If you are a commercial landscaper, you are legally responsible for ensuring stormwater pollutants are properly managed and these tips will help you meet that obligation.

Town of Spring Lake—A Phase 2 Stormwater Community

The Town of Spring Lake is under a Phase II permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and monitored by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the regulations contained in the Clean Water Act adopted in 1972. Under these regulations urban areas, determined by population, must implement standards to control and treat the stormwater runoff within their jurisdictional boundaries (city limits). Due to the high population in the Cumberland County area the Town of Spring Lake is required to enforce and monitor Phase II stormwater regulations. Under these regulations the Town is required to implement these 6 program elements into our stormwater management plan.

Public Education and Outreach

The Town accomplished this by attending area events, such as Spring Fling, and talking with citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff can have on water quality, developing handouts for the events as well as our website and social media pages and visiting local schools, boy scout meeting, home owners association meetings or any group wanting to know more about stormwater. If you or your school or organization would like to schedule a visit please contact Tim Garner, Stormwater Administrator, at (910) 497-5748 or tgarner@spring-lake.org.

Public Participation and Involvement

Any change to the Town's stormwater regulations must be approved by the Board of Aldermen under a public hearing. At these meetings residents have a chance to provide public comments regarding any proposed changes to the language. The Town has also implemented a Stormwater Advisory Committee to provide assistance with future improvements to the stormwater facilities in Spring Lake. If you would like to be a member of the Committee please download an application from the Town of Spring Lake website and submit it to the Town Clerk.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Illicit discharges are putting any substances other than stormwater into the stormwater system. This includes throwing trash on the ground, pouring chemicals or paint down a stormwater inlet basin or even not picking up after your pet during a walk. Illicit discharges are illegal and can result in a fine under the Town of Spring Lake code of ordinances. A map of the stormwater system using GIS has been developed to assist with illicit discharge reports. The map shows the location of all 1,421 stormwater inlet basins and 36 miles of pipe and open ditches in our system. Illicit discharge information and prevention handouts are also included in our public outreach campaign.

Construction Site Runoff Control

Sedimentation and erosion control is the one method that Spring Lake does not directly control. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources issues and monitors all erosion control permits for all but a few municipalities and counties in North Carolina. The town however does monitor construction activity to ensure that all erosion control measures are in place during construction to ensure sediment does not enter local waterways.

Post-Construction Runoff Control

Any construction project that began after the adoption of the Spring Lake Stormwater Ordinance must install permanent stormwater best management practices (BMP's) to reduce the pollutants contained in the stormwater exiting the site. For our area these BMP's must treat and remove 85% of the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) of the first one inch of rainfall. This can be accomplished by using detention or infiltration BMP's to remove the sediment. Detention devices such as wet detention ponds or underground storage detain or hold the water until the sediment is collected before releasing the water into the stormwater system or local water body. Infiltration devices, such as bio-retention areas (rain gardens) or infiltration trenches allow water to be absorbed back into the soil leaving sediment in the device. BMP devices need to be precisely engineered to the specific site and are required to obtain a permit before construction. Annual inspections of the BMP's are also required to be sent to the Town for review.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

The main purpose of pollution prevention/good housekeeping is reducing the pollution runoff from the Town itself. Plowing the roads instead of applying lots of road salt during winter weather, using a street sweeper to regularly remove trash and sediment from our streets, cleaning stormwater inlet basins and pipe and keeping stormwater grates clean of debris that will eventually result in clogged pipes are just some of the ways the Town also works to improve water quality in the area.

If you have any questions regarding stormwater or the Phase II program in Spring Lake or would like to report any drainage issues in your area please contact Tim Garner, Stormwater Administrator, at (910) 497-5748 or by email at tgarner@spring-lake.org.

