

WATERWAYS

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WATERWAYS is a semi-annual newsletter to inform Durham residents about various elements of Durham's stormwater management program. Public Education, Stormwater Infrastructure (drainage and flooding), and Water Quality are the three main areas in the Stormwater Services Division.

City Council Adopts New Stormwater Ordinance

Durham's new "Stormwater Management and Pollution Control" Ordinance, adopted November 20, 2006, aims to improve water quality in local waterways. The new stormwater rules specify actions to prevent pollution from entering streams as a result of stormwater discharges. The rules also increase maximum fines for violations. The major provisions of the new ordinance are summarized below.

Guidance and complete versions are available on the City's website (www.durhamnc.gov) or by contacting the Public Works Department (919-560-4326).



Illicit Discharges and Spills

The new rules prohibit the indirect or direct discharge, emission, disposal, pouring, or pumping of any liquid, solid, gas, or other substance other than stormwater into the drainage system. Only rain is allowed in the storm drain. Some discharges are specifically allowed, such as lawn watering and residential car washing. The complete list of exemptions is available in the ordinance.

Spills that may enter the drainage system must be immediately contained. "Dry" clean-up methods should be used. Those responsible for the property where a spill or illicit discharge occurs must notify the City within one working day (560-7946 or email stormwaterquality@durhamnc.gov).

Illicit Connections

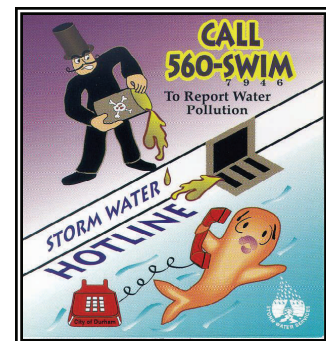
The ordinance outlaws pipes or ditches that can carry non-stormwater to storm drains or directly to streams. Discharges from these connections are now illegal. However, property owners have until June 1, 2007 to remove connections to the storm drain system, including indoor floor drains. The connection must be removed sooner if a hazardous substance could be released.

Drainage

The drainage system on one's property must be kept free of anything that would block it, including trash and debris. Property owners must ensure that leaves, grass, branches, waste, and dirt do not enter storm drains, street gutters, or ditches. Drainage systems must not be changed in a way that obstructs the free flow of water. For questions about drainage, call 560-4326, extension 234.

Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Used motor oil, antifreeze, or other automotive products
- Cooking grease or oil
- Leaves or other yard waste
- Paint
- Cleaning products
- Trash
- Dirt



Only rain in the storm drain!

Automotive Activities

Motor oil, antifreeze, other automotive fluids, and other petroleum products that are stored outdoors must have secondary containment and must be stored under a covered area. Spill clean-up kits are required for properties on which 10 or more gallons of petroleum or automotive products are stored. Vehicle service must be conducted in covered bays. New and used vehicle parts shall not be exposed to rainwater.

Storage of Salvaged Vehicles

Outdoor storage of 10 or more junked, salvaged, or unlicensed vehicles requires a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. The plan should outline the prevention of discharge of used motor oil, antifreeze, solvents, other automotive fluids, brake dust, sediment from land disturbance, and other pollutants. The plan must be developed:

- ⇒ By September 1, 2007 for facilities with 30 or more salvage vehicles;
- ⇒ By February 1, 2008 for facilities with more than 10 but less than 30 salvage vehicles.

Enforcement

Nonresidential base maximum penalty:
\$10,000 per day per violation

Residential base maximum penalty:
\$500 per day per violation

Background

Why are these new rules necessary? Discharges from the private and public drainage systems in the City of Durham are a significant source of pollutants such as pathogens, nitrogen, hydrocarbons, toxic metals, and total chlorine. This polluted stormwater enters streams and lakes, threatening public health, safety, and welfare. In 2005, all urban streams within the City of Durham failed to meet one or more state water quality standards. The new ordinance strengthens the City's rules on conditions and activities that cause pollution, thus improving water quality and promoting public health.

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Information

To view maps online:

www.durhamnc.gov – Interactive Maps link

- Flood Insurance Rate Maps application to view PDF files of maps
- Coming in January 2007! Spatial Data Explorer application to view floodplain GIS data

www.ncfloodmaps.com – Digital Flood Maps link

To view paper copies in person:

Durham City Hall, 3rd Floor, Public Works Department

To purchase maps:

www.msc.fema.gov or call 1-800-358-9616

Spring Water Quality Tips



- ◆ Host an **Earth Day Stream Clean-up** in your neighborhood on April 21, 2007. Call 560-4326, ext. 235 for details.
- ◆ Avoid over-fertilizing! Have your soil tested to see what nutrients are needed. Pick up/Drop off kits at the Durham County Extension Office, 721 Foster Street.
- ◆ Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides to keep waterways clean and healthy.
- ◆ Place anti-pollution stickers on your street's storm drains. To pick up the kit, call 560-4326, ext. 235.

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Public Works Department - Stormwater Services - 919-560-4326

<http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/stormwater.cfm>

Design/Plan Review - Drainage/Flooding Concerns - Floodplain Information

Stormwater Public Education - Surface Water Quality

City of Durham

