



MEDIA RELEASE

Kevin Arata, Corporate Communications Director

Release: IMMEDIATE Contact: Shauna Haslem, Stormwater Educator

Date: 14/July/2015 Phone: (910) 433-1071

City's Stormwater Program Marks 20 Years!

(Fayetteville, N.C.) – This month marks the 20th anniversary of the City of Fayetteville's Stormwater Division. In July 1995, the City was issued a municipal stormwater discharge permit from the State and the EPA. Since then, the Stormwater Division has worked diligently to protect the environment by implementing provisions of the Permit.

Since its inception, the City's Stormwater Division has focused on protecting water quality. A few accomplishments include:

- Developing and implementing a stormwater utility to serve as a dedicated funding source.
- Development and implementation of the stormwater management Ordinance which includes provisions for illicit discharge detection and elimination to reduce pollution, and post-construction runoff controls to reduce polluted runoff and flooding.
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive public awareness program to educate citizens on stormwater runoff and pollution prevention including an award winning educational video, numerous publications, presentations, media campaigns, and our mascot, "Stormee".
- Established a Stormwater Hotline for citizens to report stormwater concerns.
- Fostered relationships and partnered with various local agencies to spread knowledge of the stormwater program mission and its importance to the overall environment.
- Created a Limited Creek Cleaning Program to remove trash and debris from local waterways, and expanded the program to include assistance in urban beaver management.
- Development and implementation of several water quality screening programs, to include the Ambient In-Stream Monitoring, Impaired Stream Monitoring, and Culvert Inspection programs.
- Coordinated and supported various grants from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund for activities to improve stormwater quality and reduce polluted runoff in local waterways and promote "green" infrastructure.
- Developed and implemented a training program for City departments whose job duties could pose a threat to stormwater quality.
- Identified and developed a database for industrial facilities and other potential polluters within the City to perform inspections and monitoring of facilities including Pollution Prevention Plans and related training for the City's municipal facilities.
- Successful annual reporting to NC DENR regarding the local stormwater program and the ongoing environmental permit compliance including random audits by NC DENR and EPA.

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- Received a 2012 award from Cumberland County Partnership for Children for event participation and educational engagement of children.
- Partnered with NC State University and other third parties to install permeable pavement and bioretention systems to filter stormwater runoff at the Fayetteville Amtrak Station.
- Partnered with NC State University and the local homebuilders association to conduct an evaluation study of stormwater best management practices (BMP).

Analysis has generally concluded that stormwater runoff quality in Fayetteville is in line with other large urban NC cities. Significant behavioral changes to improve quality sometimes may take a generation to fully implement. Infrastructure improvements to help quality and quantity also continue.

Greg Caison, Stormwater Manager for the City said, “The team assembled within the City’s Stormwater Division and the Engineering & Infrastructure Department has made the difference over the past twenty years with their sincere work ethic focused on effectively resolving flooding issues with limited resources and on continued environmental permit compliance to address NC DENR and EPA concerns.”

The Stormwater Division along with the City of Fayetteville is committed to improving stormwater quality, and continues to develop new programs to address concerns. For more information about the stormwater program and its history, please visit the website at www.cityoffayetteville.org/stormwater.

Editor’s Note:

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