

City of Burlington 2011-2012 *highlights*



SCHOOLS

Stormwater SMART contacted elementary schools and middle schools in Burlington informing them of our educational programs. We had a positive response from Newlin Elementary, Highland Elementary, and Children's House Montessori. 238 students participated in our educational programs and a certificate of appreciation was awarded to each classroom. Our education and outreach efforts were complemented through efforts by the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) who conducted a two-day celebration "Farm to Table" in Burlington. Over 700 fourth-grade students in the County learned about stormwater pollution at this event. We also worked with Alamance County Community College to provide an Enviroscope program to an English as Second Language (ESL) class.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Stormwater SMART attended the Burlington Carousel Festival and nearby Mebane Dogwood Festival in which we provided outreach materials, conducted surveys, and discussed water quality problems and solutions with over 100 people. Citizens loved our educational dog treats tagged with information on the importance of managing pet waste. We also worked with City of Burlington staff to conduct teacher outreach at the Teacher Expo hosted by the Chamber of Commerce for Alamance County school teachers.

SCOUTS

Stormwater SMART attended the regional Girl Scouts 100 year anniversary event and engaged 200+ scouts and leaders from the Piedmont Triad. Stormwater SMART staff taught Environmental Science and Soil and Water Conservation material at Alamance District Scout Merit Badge College in March 2012. Thirty scouts from around the county including several from Burlington, participated in the interactive and in-depth program on badge requirements including soil erosion and water quality.

PRESENTATIONS

Stormwater SMART provided a program to the Burlington Rotary Club addressing the state of water in the City of Burlington as well as current regulation and how it might impact the future of the City. Approximately 20 members participated. We also worked with the Burlington Men's Garden Club, conducting two programs on the importance of native plants and how they can be used to improve water quality. There are approximately 50 people in the Club.



RAIN GARDEN DESIGN WORKSHOP

The City of Burlington took a major step in their outreach efforts this year. Through a partnership with Stormwater SMART, the local Cooperative Extension Office and various other public and private entities, the City worked with a local landowner on an impaired tributary of Little Alamance Creek to construct a large rain garden. The process included a large outreach component and two workshops were conducted reaching at least 30 attendees. The workshop resulted in an article in the Alamance Gardener and additional interest in backyard rain gardens in the community.



BUFFER IN A BOOKMARK

This year we launched the “Buffer in a Bookmark” program to Stormwater SMART libraries. These libraries received copies of our newsletter, a personal letter educating them about our programs and bookmarks made of paper seeded with native wildflowers and information about the important role plants play in protecting water quality.

MATERIALS

Stormwater SMART worked with the City of Burlington to distribute brochures, new homeowner information guides, flyers, the Stormwater Steward and other information educating citizens about the actions they can take to improve water quality. Topics include: general stormwater, pet waste, low impact development, riparian buffers, vehicle washing and maintenance, landscaping for water quality, septic system maintenance, rain garden design and

function, hazardous waste disposal, and proper fertilizer use. All materials are available on our website, www.stormwatersmart.org.

