

City of Graham 2011-2012

highlights



SCHOOLS

Stormwater SMART contacted three elementary schools and two middle schools in Graham informing them of our educational programs. We had a positive response from Northern Graham elementary school, where we provided an EnviroScape program to Fifth graders on February 10, 2012. We taught four classes and reached 87 students and distributing certificates to each class. A teacher from Graham also participated in our Project WET training. While we were unable to attend more schools, education needs were also met through the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) who conducted a two-day celebration "Farm to Table" in nearby Burlington. Over 700 fourth-grade students in the County learned about stormwater pollution at this event.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

While Stormwater SMART did not attend a festival in Graham, we attended other area festivals, including the Burlington Carousel Festival, the Mebane Dogwood Festival, and the Gibsonville Fall Festival. Stormwater SMART distributed outreach materials, conducted surveys, and distributed grocery bags, rain gauges and other giveaways to area citizens.

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 participated in the interactive and in-depth program on badge requirements including soil erosion and water quality.

PRESENTATIONS

Stormwater SMART presented to 25 members of the Graham Rotary Club on stormwater rules and regulations and how they may impact local government operations, citizens, and business owners.

RAIN GARDEN DESIGN

Stormwater SMART visited and designed a rain garden for a resident of Graham. We hope our efforts pay off and the resident will be able to implement the project in the next fiscal year. This project was the result of a rain garden demonstration workshop held in Burlington.

STREAMWATCH TRAINING

Residents of Graham were notified of Stormwater SMART's stream watch training but none participated. The Haw River Assembly has a River Watch Group that monitored the water quality of Little Alamance Creek at S. Graham Park On 9/25/11 and 1/1/2012 and found poor and fair water quality results respectfully.

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 Graham 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.