

STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD PROGRAM

The Lower Cape Fear **Stewardship Development Award Program** honors development projects in New Hanover, Pender, and Brunswick Counties that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement, and awareness of our natural resources. The program carries two levels of distinction: **Outstanding Recognition** and **Significant Achievement**. Projects are judged on the overall creativity, design, and environmental impacts with primary emphasis on:



- ◆ Water Quality Protection
- ◆ Site Inventory & Development Plan
- ◆ Green Building
- ◆ Wildlife Habitat Protection/Improvement
- ◆ Scenic View Protection/Beautification
- ◆ Historical/Archaeological/Cultural Protection
- ◆ Project Management Plan
- ◆ Community Outreach/Public Education
- ◆ Re-Use/Revitalization of Existing Site

This program is recognized by the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association, Wilmington Regional Association of REALTORS®, New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender Counties, City of Wilmington, NH, Brunswick, and Pender Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Cape Fear RC&D, and UNCW-MPA Program. For more information or to request an application, call your County Planning Department or visit www.stewardshipdev.com.

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Stormwater Watch Newsletter

Fall 2005 ~ Annual Report Issue

Local Homeowner's Association Educates Residents



This Fall, the Birch Creek Homeowners Association sponsored an educational program to help residents enhance and protect Downey Branch Creek, a tributary of Burnt Mill Creek, which runs through their community. This community of 140 townhomes is situated between Wrightsville Ave. and Wilshire Ave. Downey Branch Creek is surrounded by a variety of trees, shrubs, birds and other wildlife which give the community a park-like feel in the middle of the city.

Tom Tewey, a Birch Creek resident, began noticing a decline in the health and stability of Downey Branch and decided to bring it to the attention of his homeowners association (HOA). "I enjoy bird watching and walking along the creek, and about a year ago I noticed two kingfishers fishing. It made me realize how full of life this creek really is and how important it is to protect it." Concerned with bank erosion along the creek and new development occurring nearby, Tom began training to be a CreekKeeper with Cape Fear River Watch. Through this training, he learned how to effectively monitor the creek and document changes.

In addition, Tewey convinced his HOA to hold "Birch Creek Week", a week long program focused on educating Birch Creek residents about water quality, stormwater runoff and personal responsibility for protecting the creek. Tewey says, "It wasn't difficult to get people involved with this project. There are many resource people available through the City of Wilmington and other local organizations. They were all very responsive and made Birch Creek Week possible". Presenters included Bill Murray from Cape Fear River Watch, Jennifer Butler and David Mayes from the City of Wilmington Stormwater Services, Shelly Miller from New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District, Andrea Talley from Halyburton Park, Jason Wright and Ken Wells from the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension.

Birch Creek Week attracted many residents throughout the community. Donna Dineen, a resident, became interested in helping preserve Downey Branch when she started noticing all the life in the creek while walking her dogs. When asked what residents can do to help water quality, she said, "Many residents rely on the landscapers for yard maintenance, so if we educate the landscapers on yard waste and its (harmful) effects, we can help keep it out of the creek." Donna and her husband, Dr. Dineen, a local veterinarian, are both members of the Birch Creek Week Committee and are doing their part to help protect water quality. They are donating a pet waste station for residents to dispose of pet waste properly, thereby reducing runoff pollution flowing into Downey Branch.



According to Birch Creek residents and the HOA, Birch Creek Week was a tremendous success. Tewey said, "We were very pleased with the turnout and people's interest regarding this wonderful resource". In addition, Stormwater Services applauds Birch Creek's efforts to educate residents and protect a valuable waterway. "It's fantastic when citizens get involved, learn about stormwater runoff and pollution, and then make a personal difference. Programs like Birch Creek Week is a prime example of how HOAs can educate their residents about water quality problems and solutions", says Jennifer Butler, Outreach & Education Coordinator for Stormwater Services.

Submitted by Mindy Hauptmann, Stormwater Services Intern

Stormwater Services
Stormwater Services maintains and improves the public drainage system for protection of our community and the environment.

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IN-HOUSE PROJECTS

Stormwater Services maintenance crews conduct in-house drainage improvement projects throughout the City on a regular basis. These projects consist of installing new pipes, culverts, manholes, and road repair and are an essential element in maintaining the storm drainage system.

Project Location	\$ Cost		
1604 Brigantine Dr.	1,982.97	100 Old Dairy Rd.	2,017.20
315 Bristol Rd.	11,911.34	925 Reilly Rd.	797.32
Reilly & Chalmers	1,104.22	322 Rill Rd.	1,803.26
600 Chowning Pl.	4,688.00	522 Tanbridge Rd.	1,392.35
125 Chula Vista Dr.	8,216.22	Upper Reach Dr.	24,911.20
2300 Delaney Ave.	9,191.01	705 Windemere Rd.	5,926.12
202 Devonshire Lane	13,889.20	333 Airlie Brook Dr.	8,382.21
1702 Fordham Rd.	5,877.55	Operations Center Dr.	2,063.96
129 Hampton Rd.	2,781.12	530 Dogwood Lane	860.38
Kerr Ave. Wetland	13,580.96	620 Dogwood Lane	477.23
Churchill & S. Live Oak Pkwy.	4,079.26	Park Ave./Hawthorne Rd.	1,878.57
8112 Masonboro Sd. Rd.	5,931.73	Bryan & River Rd.	1,438.04
		Total	\$135,181.42

STORMWATER UTILITY MAINTENANCE COMPARISONS ~ FISCAL YEARS 98-99 THRU 03-04

Maintenance Activity	Unit	FY 98/99	FY 99/00*	FY 00/01	FY 01/02	FY 02/03	FY 03/04	FY 04/05
Clean Structures	Each	11,990	12,143	9,069	6,922	12,919	11,931	**13,158
Clean Lines	Linear ft.	336,716	406,966	260,231	315,716	241,167	154,511	**161,597
Cave-in Repair	Each	235	470	497	314	294	280	293
Structure Repair	Each	105	70	121	118	116	105	110
Construct Structures	Each	32	4	42	39	26	41	29
Reset Structure Covers	Each	322	238	198	289	227	257	240
Replace Structure Covers	Each	162	198	192	174	182	150	153
Ditch Cleaning (hand)	Linear ft.	178,674	2,557,692	307,554	470,683	346,282	349,416	332,567
Slope Mowing	Linear ft.	938,379	859,788	502,642	564,023	450,866	528,310	538,559
Right-of-Way Mowing	Acres	147	123	175	181	159	194	181
Culvert Cleaning	Each	383	632	162	757	1,471	814	**1570
Sweep Streets	Miles	9,157	11,400	13,310	15,685	13,337	13,670	9,704
Street Sweeping Disposal	Truckloads	409	545	773	886	888	961	859

*Significant increases or decreases in maintenance activities from year-to-year are due to hurricane clean-up activities, differences in rainfall amounts, or storm event response activities.

**Does not include inspections

Stormwater Services Capital Projects

STORMWATER RUNOFF is a major cause of property flooding and water quality impairment. To address these issues, Stormwater Services implements **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS** throughout the City. These projects aim to improve and maintain the storm drainage system, reduce flooding issues and improve water quality. These projects involve 5 major stages from start to finish: **1) PLANNING, 2) DESIGN/PERMITTING, 3) EASEMENT ACQUISITION, 4) CONTRACTOR SELECTION/CONSTRUCTION, AND 5) COMPLETION.** The status, location, and costs of current, complete, and future stormwater capital projects are shown on the map below.

