



NEW HANOVER COUNTY



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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 2023

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Stay informed of your local district happenings!

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2023 Conservation Contest

"Water: The Cycle of Life"

New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the 2023 Conservation Contest on February 22nd at Hanover County Arboretum. Youth from around the county could participate in four categories; poster, essay design slideshow, and public speaking. This years contest theme was "Water: The Cycle of Life". Participants to appropriately and creatively utilize the theme in their chosen category. First place winners received a gift certificate, and qualify for the Area Competition. First and second place winners were invited to an Awards Ceremony catered lunch. During the ceremony, participants in the public speaking category had to deliver their speech to a judge. Scott Enroughty, New Hanover County 4-H Agent, and Mr. Bryan Dadson, Conservation Specialist, served as judges for the public speaking contest. We are looking forward to hosting the contest again next February!

I am please to announce the winners for the 2023 Conservation Contest:

Poster

Carly Maus, First Place

Computer-Design Slideshow

Amaree Kenion, First Place

Meadow Rosales

Public Speaking

Anah Stough, First Place

Blake Wittman, Second Place

Essay

Hannah Rieman, First Place

Sadie Chontos, Second Place



Photo: 2023 Conservation Contest Winners

For the Love of Low Impact Development

What is there to love about Low Impact Development?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a type of planning and land use that looks to mimic a site's natural processes that occur in a natural development. LID is typically used in stormwater design, where the goal is to replicate the same stormwater control that the site would have if it were left in its natural state. When we develop a site purely for human use, we tend to take away processes such as infiltration (when water is absorbed into the ground), transpiration (evaporation that occurs from a plant's leaves after they take up water), and evaporation. We also affect the natural hydrology of a site as well, where there is decreased amounts of stormwater that once recharged the groundwater supply. Buildings, roads, and other built structures take away permeable surfaces and create impervious ones, or surfaces that do not allow for water to infiltrate the ground. Without thought for hydrology and stormwater control, these impervious surfaces can lead to increased flooding and pollution when it rains.

So, what can LID do for the problems created through increased impervious surfaces? We all need places to work, live, and play, but LID can help us do just that and allow for natural stormwater control to happen once more. Simple LID solutions include rain gardens, which are bowl-shaped gardens with natural vegetation that treat the stormwater coming from an impervious surface. With rain gardens, they are normally connected to a home or business's gutter downspouts by a French drain, which is an underground pipe. The rain garden allows for the first inch to inch and a half of rain water to infiltrate and be soaked up by the vegetation, allowing for groundwater recharge to occur as well. These small, simple LIDs allow for natural stormwater control to happen on a site otherwise would not due to development. Larger versions of a rain garden, which are called bioretention areas, can treat much larger amounts of stormwater and are always designed with an engineer. You might notice bioretention areas sometimes at airports or shopping centers, which are developments with much more stormwater to handle.

There are also smaller forms of LID that can help our environment as well. Sometimes it is as simple as rerouting your downspout with a corrugated pipe extension, so that the water is rerouted to flow into your yard and infiltrate into the ground rather than flow into a driveway like it was doing before. LID is a design principle that allows humans and nature to coexist, all while protecting our natural resources and treating stormwater runoff pollution. Living in a coastal place where our natural resources and health are connected to the ocean can help lift the burden that we place on our home.

Canines for Clean Water

"Pick-up the Poop and Sign the Pledge!"

We love our furry friends! Having a dog brings joy, energy, and some *23 million fecal bacteria per gram* of dog poop! The found in pet waste, can contaminate drinking water, cause illness, and lead to infections in open wounds. In order to reduce levels in our waterways, caused by pet waste, we offer two simple solutions.

1. Pick up after your pet!

Picking up pet waste in your yard, property, and in public areas removes the chances for the pet waster to run into our local waterways. Dispose of the waste properly by using a pet waste bag and dropping it into a pet waste station or in your trash can! Never waste, it can cause damage to your pipes and the wastewater treatment plant!

2. Sign the C4CW Pledge

New Hanover County Soil & Water Conservation District and the City of Wilmington host tabling event, education, and give away goodie bags for the Canines 4 Clean Water initiative! Pet owners who pledge to pick-up after their pooch receive a goodie bag with C4CW Swag featured on the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County Website. This pledge is a promise to help keep our waters clean up after your loveable pooch! Lookout soon for our tabling event this spring!



Be a Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater flows directly to places where we like to fish and swim. Polluted stormwater is a major contributor to poor water quality, but you can be a part of the solution!

What goes in here...



Hard surfaces prevent stormwater from soaking into the ground.

...ends up here!



Pollution is carried by stormwater runoff into local waterways.

Stormwater runoff is not sent to a treatment facility. Instead, it drains directly to local creeks and waterways.

Pet Waste

- ✗ Contains harmful pathogens like *E. coli*.
- ✓ Solution: Always pick up after your pet!

Fertilizer

- ✗ Contains nutrients that cause algae to grow once it has entered a waterway - which can use up oxygen and kill wildlife.
- ✓ Solution: Use the minimum amount and never apply before rain. Consider alternatives like compost and grasscycling.

Vehicle Washing Soap

- ✗ Destroys the natural oils on fish that protect them from bacteria.
- ✓ Solution: Wash your car or boat on the grass and consider using a commercial car wash where wastewater is treated.

For Your Backyard

Rain Barrels capture rain water, reducing the total amount of stormwater runoff.

Native plants in your landscaping support wildlife and may eliminate the need for fertilizers and excess watering.

Redirect your downspouts toward a pervious surface, like your lawn or flower bed.

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