



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

June E-Newsletter

Stay Informed On Your Local Districts Happenings

Summer Programming

New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District (NHSWCD) kicked-off summer programming by hosting Eco Explorers! The summer programming was held at James E.L. Wade Park in the Hewlett's Creek watershed. Youth ages three to six gathered every Thursday in June to observe, investigate, and learn about a variety of Environmental Education topics. Youth investigated stormwater run-off with an Enviroscape, observed wetland wildlife with binoculars, and learned about plant parts through yoga! NHSWCD strives to educate even our youngest residents in the importance of soils, water quality, and conservation.



Don't Feed The Fowl

As you visit the many parks and waterways in our county this summer, remember not to feed the waterfowl. Ducks, geese, and swans may flock to eat the bread we offer, but the bread is not part of their natural diet. The bread can cause long-term health problems in the waterfowl as well. Not only can it harm the waterfowl, but feeding them can damage the water ways too! Feeding the waterfowl bread causes larger numbers of waterfowl to visit the local water way than natural food supplies would allow. Large flocks of waterfowl in one area increases the

amount of waste for the local water way. Instead of feeding the waterfowl this summer, grab a pair of binoculars and enjoy birdwatching without harming the waterfowl and water way!

Pet Waste, It's Really A Problem

Pet waste is a large contributor to pollution in our local water ways. Pet waste doesn't decompose like your vegetable compost. Pet waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients and pathogens. When a rainfall event occurs, it washes pet waste into local water bodies. The pet waste decomposes, releasing nutrients that can cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. Algae and weeds can make the water murky, green, smelly, and even unusable for swimming, boating, or fishing. The pathogens, disease causing bacteria and viruses, can also make local waters closed to recreation and can cause illness in humans.

A simple solution to pet waste is picking it up and disposing of it properly. Pick-up pet waste in your yard and at public places with a pooper scooper or pet waste bag. Throw the pet waste in the trash can. Picking up after your pet and disposing of the pet waste in the trash can will help eliminate pathogens and nutrients from entering our water ways!