

LOCAL RESOURCES

For more information please contact:

River Bend Public Works Dept.

252.638.3870 x 206

NC Cooperative Extension

252.633.1477

Neuse River Foundation

252.637.7922

BMPs

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed in this brochure are actions that help protect water quality. In addition, structural BMPs can be placed on your property to slow down, filter, and reduce the amount of runoff flowing into the local waterways. This also helps to prevent flooding. Structural BMPs include rain barrels, shoreline buffers, rain gardens, pervious pavement, habitat gardens, grassy swales and native plants. On the Town's website <http://www.riverbendnc.org> you can download the booklet: "Improving Water Quality in Your Own Backyard." See this document for more information and ideas.

Town of River Bend
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562



YOU are the solution to
stormwater pollution!



RIVER BEND'S WATERWAYS DEPEND ON YOU

Clean Water Starts at Home

Stormwater runoff is rainwater or irrigation water that does not soak into the ground. Runoff flows off of impervious (hard) surfaces such as streets, rooftops, driveways and parking lots and carries pollutants directly into our waterways—



Partially occluded culvert.

As a property owner, you can become a solution to stormwater pollution by following the tips listed inside this brochure.

**Help protect River Bend
to make it a great place to
live and play!**

PREVENTING RUNOFF POLLUTION BEGINS AT HOME

PET WASTE contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can threaten human health and cause shellfish bed closures, algae blooms and recreational water closures. **Bag and properly dispose of all pet waste into your garbage or the town's pet waste containers.**

FERTILIZERS contain nitrogen and phosphorous—primary nutrients of algae growth. As algae decays it uses up oxygen needed for fish to survive. **Leave clippings on the grass, don't fertilize before it rains, use drop spreaders instead of broadcast spreaders, keep it off hard surfaces, and apply only what is needed.**

PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES are poisonous and pose a health threat to humans, animals, plants and beneficial insects. **Weed by hand, use natural predators (e.g., ladybugs), use resistant native plants, don't apply before it rains and use only as a last resort and use sparingly.**

YARD WASTE blown into or placed in streets, storm drains, ditches, or swales can impede the water from draining properly. **Leave grass clipping on the lawn, keep yard waste on your lawn, compost leaves and grass clippings, bag or containerize yard waste for collection—keep off the street.**

SEDIMENT impacts aquatic life, habitat and water quality and can lead to flooding. **Re-seed bare yard areas, mulch exposed garden bed areas, keep mulch in place with borders or trenches, don't pile dirt on hard surfaces, follow all laws for construction sites.**

**PLEASE SHARE THESE TIPS WITH
YOUR LANDSCAPING COMPANY AND
NEIGHBORS.**

CAR WASHING soaps and cleaners can kill fish. Many detergents contain phosphates that promote excessive algae and aquatic weed growth. **Wash your car on the grass, use environmentally-friendly cleaning products, use a commercial car wash.**

AUTO FLUIDS are often poured down storm drains or leaked onto the pavement. Properly dispose of these hazardous wastes. **Recycle oil (town Public Works Department), batteries and anti-freezes. Clean up vehicle leaks immediately (kitty litter absorbs well).**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE such as paint, cleaners or other household chemicals often contain toxins, heavy metals, and nutrients. When these pollutants enter the waterways, they impact water quality, wildlife, and human health. **Properly dispose of all hazardous waste, use products correctly, use environmentally friendly products, and do not pour these hazardous products down the storm drain or household drains.**

LITTER is unsightly and can clog storm drains, ditches and pipes causing flooding. Litter may entangle wildlife or be mistaken by them for food. Cigarette butt filters contain a form of plastic that takes many years to break down in the environment. **Always put litter and cigarette butts in the trash. Reduce, reuse, and recycle whenever possible.**

SEPTIC SYSTEMS that are poorly maintained or leaking can cause shellfish bed closures, groundwater contamination, and public health concerns. **Inspect and pump your system every 3-5 years. Don't park on the tank or drain field. Don't use garbage disposals. Don't add chemicals.**