

Beaufort Watershed Restoration Plan

The Town of Beaufort has collaborated with the Eastern Carolina Council and the North Carolina Coastal Federation to develop a voluntary Watershed Restoration Plan for **Town Creek, Taylor Creek, and Davis Bay watersheds**. This plan highlights water quality impairments in the watersheds and proposes strategies to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff to improve water quality. Having a plan better positions the town to receive grant funding for stormwater reduction projects. This plan is the result of a nearly two-year long process lead by the Beaufort Stormwater Advisory Committee and partners. The plan seeks to:

1. Restore and maintain water quality
2. Reduce instances of localized flooding
3. Prioritize cost effective stormwater retrofits

What is going on in the watersheds?

Water quality monitoring by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries indicates that local shellfishing and swimming waters are impaired because of stormwater pollution.

Proposed Solutions

The draft Beaufort Watershed Restoration Plan includes strategies to restore hydrology and reduce polluted runoff. These include cost effective retrofits that direct stormwater to infiltrate into the ground or collect it for later use. The goal of the plan is to:

- “Turn back the clock” on water pollution
- Reduce instances of flooding
- Align future capital improvements with stormwater retrofits
- Increase community awareness
- Position the town for future funding opportunities

Sample Solutions and Plan

The Town has several examples of successful stormwater reduction projects, including:

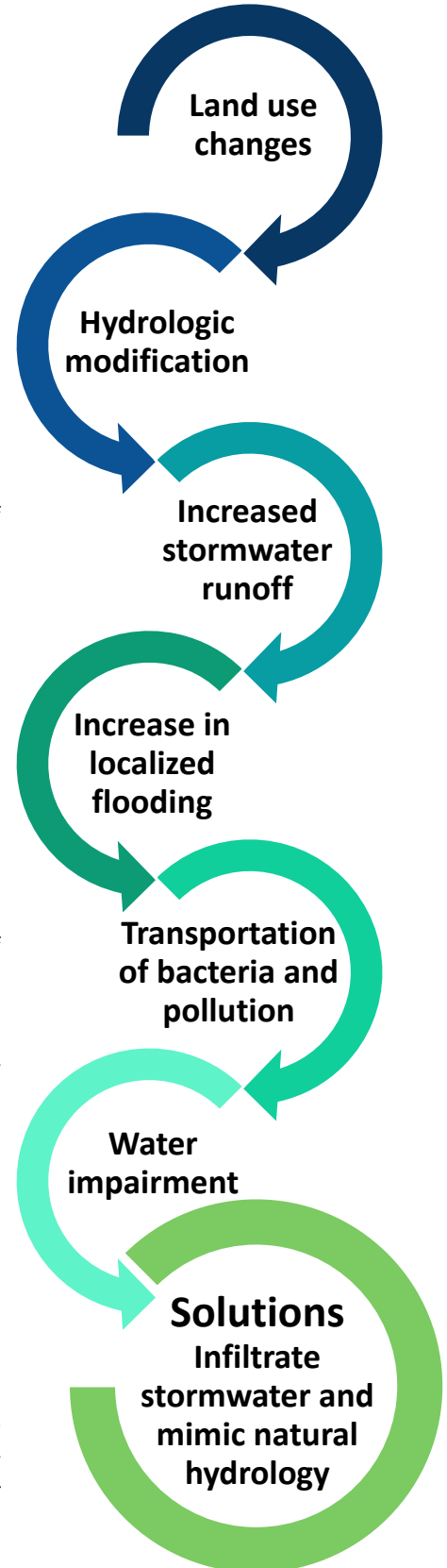
- Tiller School rain gardens
- Lennoxville Boat Ramp rain gardens
- Beaufort Fire Department permeable pavement

These projects direct rain water to infiltrate into the ground instead of it flowing through ditches, pipes and stormwater systems into our local waters.

The Beaufort Watershed Restoration Plan was prepared to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nine Minimum Elements and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Section 319 guidelines. Once approved, the Town will be positioned to apply for grants to implement the plan. The Beaufort Stormwater Committee is committed to working with non-profits and state agencies, like N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT), to encourage projects to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and improve local water quality.

What you can do

Beaufort’s waters are an important economic resource for fishing, recreation and tourism. Ensuring this valuable resource has a healthy future will take community support. Help in the efforts by making your yard or business a Smart Yard. See the *Smart Yard* guide for simple solutions.



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Eastern Carolina Council



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast