

## TO LEARN MORE

Contact your local soil and water conservation district or visit:

[http://www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc/pages/ccap\\_program.html](http://www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc/pages/ccap_program.html)

A complete list of districts is available online through the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation:  
[www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc](http://www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc)  
or by calling (919) 733-2302.

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## North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program



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A Program of the  
N.C. Division of Soil  
and Water Conservation

*Working Together  
To Improve Water Quality  
For Future Generations.*



## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is CCAP?

A voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. CCAP consists of educational, technical and financial assistance provided to landowners by local soil and water conservation districts.

### Who is eligible?

Eligible landowners may include: homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and community groups. Essentially, all private and publicly owned lands are eligible for the program.

### Why is this program important?

As North Carolina's land use is changing and rapidly becoming more urbanized, CCAP can educate landowners on water quality and stormwater management, as well as retrofit practices to treat polluted stormwater runoff and ultimately improve the water quality of our state's waterways.

### How does CCAP work?

Interested landowners submit applications to their local soil and water conservation districts. Applications will be ranked based on local water quality priorities. If eligible, a conservation plan is prepared for the applicant to install the BMP (a landscaper may be used). The landowner may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the BMP.

**What best management practices are approved for CCAP?**  
Many best management practices are eligible. This brochure explains several approved BMPs. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MISSION

Soil and water conservation districts providing natural resource management through technical, educational and financial assistance on urban, suburban and rural lands for the benefit of all the people of North Carolina.



# Approved Community Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Riparian buffers are areas of native trees and shrubs located adjacent to a body of water. These buffers serve as a barrier to nonpoint source pollution from stormwater. Buffers also filter runoff, control flooding, protect property from erosion and provide essential wildlife habitat.



## BACKYARD RAIN GARDENS

Backyard rain gardens, also known as bioretention areas in larger scale settings, are small depressions in the landscape that are used to collect stormwater runoff for a short period of time. They typically hold water less than 48 hours. Rain gardens are placed between stormwater runoff sources such as roofs and driveways and the nearby receiving waters such as storm drains or creeks. Rain gardens can include a variety of trees, shrubs and perennial plants that provide habitat and help treat runoff.



## BACKYARD WETLANDS

Backyard wetlands, known as stormwater wetlands on a larger scale, are constructed to mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They are intended to hold water and are planted in naturally wet areas. Backyard wetlands temporarily store, filter and clean stormwater runoff using plants that thrive in wet conditions. Wetlands also provide wildlife habitat, flood water storage and they replenish groundwater.

## STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

Streambank and shoreline protection is the use of vegetation to stabilize and prevent erosion of the banks of streams, lakes or other waterways. This BMP restores the natural function of the stream and improves water quality. Erosion leads to sediment build up, loss of habitat, flooding, loss of property and poor water quality. This practice prevents erosion, restores wildlife habitat, reduces flooding and filters polluted runoff.

## CISTERNS

Cisterns are storage tanks designed for collecting rainwater for use in watering lawns, gardens, landscape or indoor plants. Cisterns are intended to reduce stormwater runoff, encourage runoff infiltration and conserve water.



## PET WASTE RECEPTACLES

Pet waste receptacles are designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after their animals. When maintained properly, this practice reduces harmful bacteria from entering waterways. This BMP is not intended for use by individual homeowners.

## IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CONVERSION

Impervious surface, are land covers such as driveways and roads that do not allow percolation of rainwater into the ground or vegetation. This BMP allows for removal of impervious surfaces and conversion to a more permeable surface. This practice must be combined with vegetation establishment or permeable pavement installation.

## PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable pavement is an alternative to conventional concrete and asphalt paving. It allows runoff to soak back into the ground instead of running off. Permeable pavement can be used for driveways, walkways and low flow parking lots. These materials reduce runoff, decrease flooding, filter pollutants and recharge groundwater. This BMP is only eligible as a component of impervious surface conversion.



*Other eligible BMPs include grassed swales, abandoned well closures, critical area plantings, diversions and stream restoration. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.*