

## WHICH STORMWATER SOLUTION FOR ME?

Stormwater Solutions are landscape modifications and actions that reduce polluted runoff draining into Bradley and Hewletts Creeks. The Heal Our Waterways program can help you identify which would work best on your property, such as:

- Rain Barrel/Cistern
- Downspout Reroute
- Rain Garden
- Native Plants
- Permeable Pavement
- Vegetated Buffers
- Backyard Wetlands
- Trees



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY INCORPORATING THESE SIMPLE STORMWATER SOLUTIONS INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE:

- Never dump, sweep, rake, blow or put anything into a storm drain, ditch or waterway.
- Always clean up after pets.
- Wash vehicles and boats on the grass or at a commercial carwash.
- Keep yard waste, such as leaves, pine straw and grass clippings, out of storm drains, ditches and streets.
- Install native plants; they are naturally drought, disease and pest-resistant.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides properly and sparingly, if at all.
- Put litter in the trash. Cigarette butts are litter too! Reduce, reuse, recycle and repurpose.
- Repair leaking vehicles and properly dispose of vehicle fluids.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste such as cleaners, paints, vehicle fluids and electronics at NHC Environmental Management (798-4400). Dispose of medicines at Medicine Drop locations.



HEAL OUR WATERWAYS PROGRAM  
PO BOX 1810  
WILMINGTON NC 28402



Bradley and Hewletts Creek need your help...



# HEAL OUR WATERWAYS PROGRAM



A community-wide effort to restore  
Bradley & Hewletts Creeks

*Reduce polluted runoff  
to bring back healthy creeks!*

**WILMINGTON**  
CITY OF  
STORMWATER SERVICES

**WE CAN SHOW YOU HOW!**

# HEAL OUR WATERWAYS PROGRAM (HOW)



## BRADLEY AND HEWLETTS CREEKS NEED YOUR HELP!

### HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

Impervious, or hard surfaces, such as roads, rooftops, driveways and parking lots prevent rainwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead it becomes stormwater runoff which picks up pollutants like pet waste,



litter, fertilizer and vehicle fluids and drains directly into our creeks via the stormwater drainage system.

This polluted runoff has resulted in poor water quality, shellfish harvest closures and recreational swimming advisories in Bradley Creek, Hewletts Creek, and Banks Channel at Wrightsville Beach.

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CREEK?

Bradley Creek and Hewletts Creek both suffer from polluted runoff, especially fecal coliform bacteria. It is a common misconception that sewage spills have polluted these creeks and caused shellfish harvest closures. Actually, polluted stormwater runoff is the primary and ongoing source of poor water quality and shellfishing closures in these creeks.



Hewletts Creek is classified by the State for "shellfish harvest", but due to fecal bacterial pollution, it is currently 100% closed to this

activity and is considered an "impaired water". Fortunately, if water quality in the creek improves over time, Hewletts Creek could be reopened to shellfishing.

The presence of commercial marinas in Bradley Creek prevent it from being classified for shellfish harvest. However, improving water quality in Bradley Creek could help to reopen shellfishing waters near the mouth of the creek and reduce swimming advisories in Banks Channel at Wrightsville Beach.

### WHAT IS HOW?

The Heal Our Waterways (HOW) Program is a collaboration of local and state governments, non-profits, commercial businesses, and residents to implement the Bradley and Hewletts Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The goal of the plan is to drastically reduce the amount of polluted runoff entering these creeks, thereby improving water quality and creek health.



Visit our website at [www.healourwaterways.org](http://www.healourwaterways.org) or follow us on social media:



HealOurWaterways



HealRWaterways

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you live or work in the Bradley or Hewletts Creek Watershed, reducing the amount of polluted runoff leaving your property can help restore the creeks to better health.



To do this, HOW encourages the installation of Stormwater Solutions on public and private property. Stormwater Solutions



capture and naturally filter polluted runoff, which would otherwise drain directly to the creeks. Stormwater solutions include rain gardens,

rain barrels, vegetated buffers, permeable pavement, and rerouting downspouts away from hard surfaces.

### BE COUNTED!

223833

We use a Creek Counter to track the amount of polluted runoff being captured by Stormwater Solutions and not running into the creeks. If you have a Stormwater Solution on your property or you want to install one, let us know! Be counted!

**Small changes can make a BIG difference when we all work together!**