

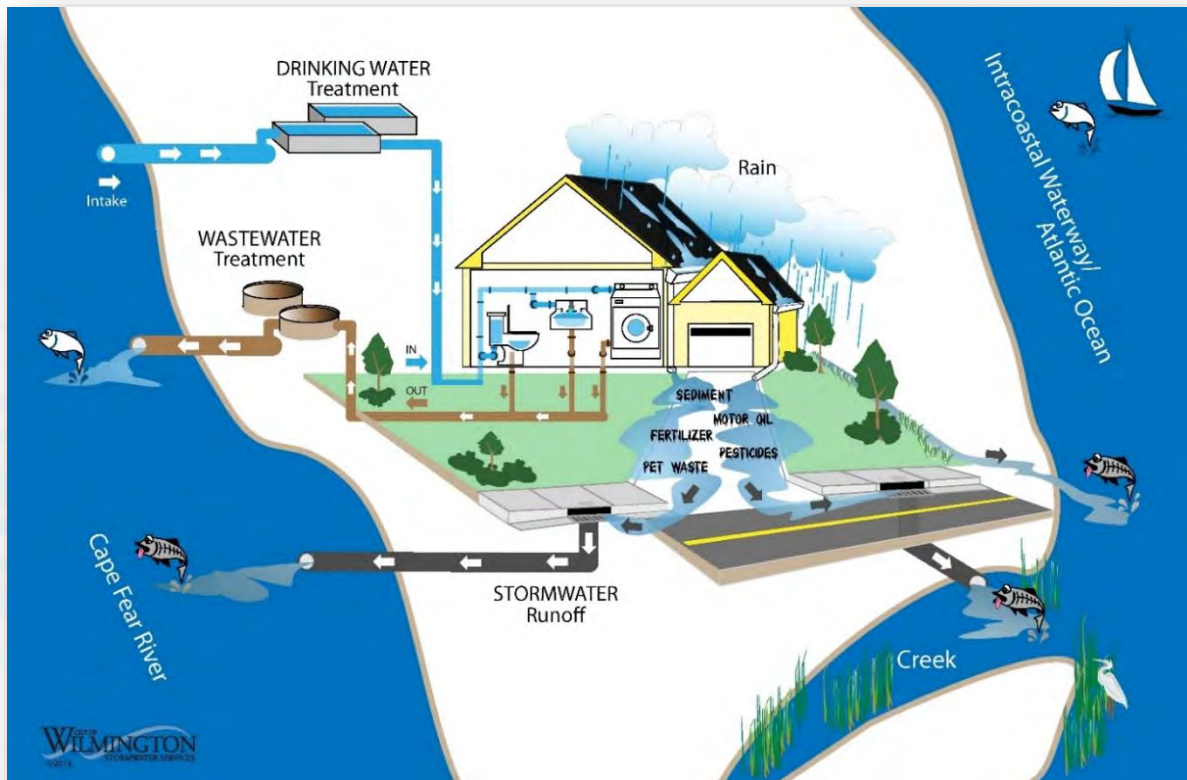


Restoring Bradley & Hewletts Creeks

Make a Ripple — Talking Points:

Do you know where your water goes?

There are 3 separate water systems in the City of Wilmington:



Drinking Water System

Carries clean, treated drinking water to homes and businesses.

Wastewater System

Carries wastewater from sinks, toilets and indoor plumbing to the wastewater treatment facility; treated water is discharged into the Cape Fear River.

Stormwater Drainage System

Carries *untreated* stormwater runoff directly to creeks, rivers and the ocean.

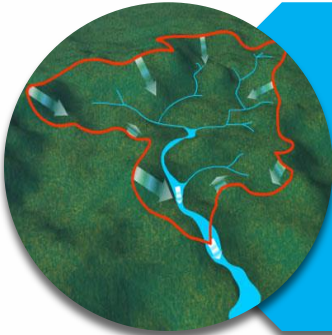
Pollution such as pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, litter and motor oil are picked up by stormwater runoff and carried into local waterways—**untreated!**

Connect the drops...YOU are the solution to stormwater pollution!



Restoring Bradley & Hewletts Creeks

Make a Ripple — Talking Points:



- A **watershed** is an area of land that drains runoff to a particular creek, lake, or larger waterway.
- **Everyone lives in a watershed!**
- **Tidal creeks** are saltwater creeks that are influenced by the tides. Many tidal creeks, such as Hewletts Creek, have oyster reefs along their shorelines.



- Stormwater runoff is the **#1 source of pollution** in our creeks.
- Stormwater runoff is **NOT TREATED** before flowing into our tidal creeks.
- Sewage spills have caused bacterial pollution in the short term, but polluted stormwater runoff is the recurrent reason our shellfishing waters are closed.



- **Impervious**, or hard surfaces (sidewalks, roads, roofs, driveways), prevent rainwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, it flows through the stormwater drainage system, picking up pollutants on its way to our creeks!



- A stormwater BMP is a **Best Management Practice**. BMPs can be actions or on the ground practices that are intended to improve water quality and/or reduce stormwater flowing into creeks.
- BMPs range from picking up after your pet to installing a rain garden, rain barrel, or rerouting downspouts away from hard surfaces.

For more information about stormwater, BMPs, and how you can help, visit HealOurWaterways.org