

# Wildlife in our Waterways



A diverse community of wildlife live in or rely on coastal waterways like Bradley Creek and Hewletts Creek. Though each species is unique, they are all connected by the intricate food web of a coastal ecosystem.

In fact, ecosystems like estuaries (where freshwater and saltwater meet) have some of the greatest “biodiversity” in North Carolina. For example, nearly 80% of popular fish species can be found in our coastal waterways at some point in their life!

**Can you name all the wildlife pictured here?  
Answer key is on the back of this postcard. Hint:  
some pictures include more than one creature!**





**City of Wilmington**  
Stormwater  
P.O. Box 1810  
Wilmington, NC 28402

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## Here are some ways you can help support wildlife in Bradley Creek and Hewletts Creek:

**Avoid Invasive Species** -- Some non-native plants can push out native species that wildlife need. Also avoid releasing aquatic pets into waterways - they may outcompete native species and disrupt existing food webs. Lionfish and phragmites are examples of introduced invasive species.

**Soak In the Rain** -- Stormwater runoff can wash pollutants, like bacteria and litter, into waterways. Soak in runoff on your property where feasible to help prevent polluted runoff from reaching aquatic wildlife and habitats with rain barrels, rain gardens, and more. Visit [healourwaterways.org](http://healourwaterways.org) for ideas!

**Report Pollution** -- See something going down a drain that is not rain? Call the Stormwater Hotline to report it:

**(910) 341-1020**

*Answer key: Top Row - Blue Crab, Diamondback Terrapin, Redfish aka Red Drum; Bottom row - Great Blue Heron/Oyster, Otter, Osprey/Striped Bass*

