



2017 Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Award Winner

Outstanding Stewardship

- Project Name:** Stormwater Demonstration Site in Anne McCrary Park
- Partners:** City of Wilmington Stormwater Services & Parks Divisions
- Location:** Anne McCrary Park off Randall Parkway, near gazebos
- Contact:** Jennifer Butler (910)-343-4777

The Anne McCrary Park Stormwater Demonstration Site is a remarkable education area showcasing stormwater BMPs within the City of Wilmington. Burnt Mill Creek is currently listed on the 319(d) list of impaired waterways. Land cover within the watershed consists mainly of impervious surfaces. It is estimated that when impervious surface coverage reaches 10%, there is increased bacterial contamination, sediment loading and polluted stormwater runoff. As a result, Burnt Mill Creek is one of the most degraded creeks in Wilmington.



City Stormwater Services applied for a 319 grant and received funding to support the Burnt Mill Creek Outreach and Demonstration Project in 2002. Anne McCrary Park was

selected to host examples of BMPs to encourage citizens to “adopt responsible watershed practices”. Not only do these BMPs help reduce the amount of polluted runoff entering Burnt Mill Creek, but they also act as examples of how home and business owners can easily incorporate BMPs on private properties.

Through partnerships between City Stormwater Services, Parks and Recreation and several other organizations, the site now has several BMP examples:

- bioretention area
- rain garden
- pervious parking lot
- pervious walkway
- roadside buffer
- thick riparian buffers
- habitat garden
- native plant gardens
- grass swale
- rain barrels
- pet waste stations



In 2015, the site underwent a significant revitalization to improve the aesthetics and function of the various BMPs. With the City’s recent status as a “Bee City USA”, the revitalization plans included plant selections favored by bees. Hundreds of new native plants were successfully installed with hard work from committed city employees and local volunteers. To protect the plants after installation, mulch was placed with the BMPs at the site. The mulch was “green” as it was created from trees that had been removed elsewhere in the city.