



Advancing Key Low Impact Development Strategies to Restore Water Quality in the White Oak River Basin

FUNDING SOURCE & AMOUNT

NC Attorney General Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG) Program
\$243,809 funded, including match
\$40,092 in-kind match from City of Wilmington

TIMEFRAME

Awarded 2015
September 2015 – August 2017

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

North Carolina Coastal Federation

IN-KIND PARTNERS

City of Wilmington, NC
NC Coastal Federation
Blockade Runner Beach Resort
Withers & Ravenel Engineering Firm
Town of Wrightsville Beach, NC
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Now NC Department of Environmental Quality)
Glen Meade Neighborhood Property Owners
NC State University
New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District

SUMMARY / DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Coastal Federation partnered with the City of Wilmington to reduce stormwater runoff draining from approximately 33.3 acres in the Glen Meade neighborhood into Hewletts Creek. A bioretention area (also called a rain garden) for reducing stormwater runoff and associated pollution, was installed in the spring of 2017.

The North Carolina Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant provided funding of \$84,000 for the acquisition of the property and \$7,925 for the project design. That was matched with \$40,092 of in-kind support from the City of Wilmington. This included construction costs, property closing costs, plants for the installation, and educational efforts.

Education for the project first involved surveying residents of the neighborhood before the installation. This gauged stormwater pollution awareness, support for the program, and provided a metric for program effectiveness. This was followed by community door-hangers, mailings, site-specific signage, an article in the citywide printed newsletter, social media posts, and several planting events. These planting events were advertised and attended by Glen Meade community residents, City of Wilmington and NC Coastal Federation employees and volunteers, and volunteers from the Wilmington community at large. After planting, additional surveys were sent out to residents to gauge the effectiveness of the campaign. This proved successful, indicating a marked increase in program-specific awareness.

GRANT GOAL(S)

- Decrease the amount of stormwater running off of the Glen Meade neighborhood into Hewletts Creek.
- Raise awareness of the causes and solutions of stormwater pollution, emphasizing community empowerment and collective participation.
- Partner with a diverse array of groups within the community to come together for the common goal of increasing water quality in Hewletts Creek.






This artist's rendition of a similar BMP is for illustrative purposes only. While the actual installation will look different, it will function in much the same way.

ATTENTION GLEN MEADE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT:

The City of Wilmington's Heal Our Waterways Program is working with our partners to install a large scale rain garden - called a *bioretention area* - that will improve the quality of polluted stormwater before it runs into nearby waterways. The bioretention area, located on Lynnwood Avenue at the end of Parham Drive, will capture and naturally filter stormwater. The site is only on about 1/4 acre, but will treat stormwater from the surrounding 33 acres!

Benefits of a bioretention area:

- Captures, absorbs, and filters polluted stormwater runoff
- Recharges groundwater
- Provides wildlife habitat in urban areas
- Reduces flooding
- Adds beauty and functionality to landscape




HEAL OUR WATERWAYS



WILMINGTON
STORMWATER SERVICES



North Carolina Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast



State University
A&T State University
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People • Providing Solutions