



WATER QUALITY SPOTLIGHT ON YOU!



WINTER/SPRING 2023

THE RESOURCE

UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER

Take a look in the mirror to see some of the best people protecting our local water resources!



It's not just Forsyth County professional staff that helps protect and improve water quality. Our residents are also actively involved in lake and stream cleanups, as well Adopt-a-Road and storm drain marking programs. Scan QR code for more opportunities from Keep Forsyth County Beautiful.

5 EASY WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT LOCAL WATER RESOURCES



Dispose of trash properly to keep litter out of County streams and rivers.



Properly maintain your septic system to prevent sewage leaks into ground or water source.



Use fertilizer/lawn care chemicals sparingly and not before it rains to reduce amount picked up by stormwater runoff.



Properly use, store, and dispose of paints, solvents, cleaners, etc. Never pour onto the ground or into a storm drain or water body.

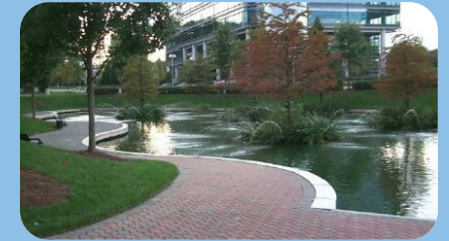


Complete regular auto maintenance to ensure no leaking fluids that can wash into local waterways. Also use commercial car wash or wash vehicle in a grassy area instead of a driveway.

PROTECTING OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ACTIONS BIG AND SMALL

What do stormwater ponds, silt fences, and pet waste pick up have in common? They're all measures that help protect local waterways and demonstrate environmental awareness by developers, businesses, and residents. While these practices are also embedded in local and state ordinances, they have become so commonplace that many people may not realize why they are important and how they contribute to the county's natural resources and overall quality of life.

Ensuring these protective measures and many others are in place and being undertaken correctly falls to the **Forsyth County Department of Engineering**. This team of professionals is responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of land and water resources. In a county that continues to see incredible growth, it's the cumulative effect of actions and best practices that builds a protective layer around our local environment and reflects Forsyth's commitment to community and the future.



The Department of Engineering publishes The Resource on a regular basis to build community knowledge and understanding of our shared water resources.

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In this Issue...

- » *How the Department of Engineering Protects Forsyth with a Focus on Land and Water*
- » *5 Easy Ways You Can Protect Local Water Resources*

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AS FORSYTH CONTINUES TO GROW INVOLVES ALL OF US!

The **Dept of Engineering's Stormwater Division** features a team of 15 professionals with a range of expertise to enforce and implement best practices across the county's **247** square miles to minimize ***stormwater impacts*** and ***erosion associated with development***.

Within the County Engineering Department, the **Stormwater Division** has an overall mission and goal ***to protect and improve water quality in the County*** through its programs and activities. With more than a quarter of a million people now calling Forsyth County home and with the County's 2021 entry into the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), these efforts are more important than ever.

Staff Focusing on Development Work to Keep Sediment and Soils Onsite During Construction

- » **Review project plans** to ensure they meet local and state requirements for erosion control and watershed protection
- » **Conduct pre-construction meeting** prior to land disturbance
- » **Inspect** during construction/infrastructure installation



Stormwater Pond



Silt fencing at residential construction site

Stormwater management systems, including ponds, should be designed to keep 1-inch of rainfall onsite for several hours so waterways aren't overwhelmed. Using silt fences is a common best practice to keep soils onsite during construction.

Federal and State Agencies

- » US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- » Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD)
- » US Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE)

Forsyth County

- » Engineering Dept
- » Health Dept (Environmental Health)
- » Water and Sewer Dept

County Residents and Businesses

By working together, we can all do our part to maintain and improve our water quality.

Where's My Water?

Which metro waterways are in Forsyth County?

- Chattahoochee River
- Lake Lanier
- Etowah River
- All of the above

If you answered "d" you're correct! Many streams and creeks also run through the County and drain into these major watersheds.

Staff ensures compliance with regulations at the federal, state, and local level and coordinates with multiple agencies to ensure water quality requirements are enforced consistently throughout the watershed. We also work with neighboring jurisdictions. These rules help to better manage stormwater and protect the natural water bodies within the County.

Consider this...

In 2000 when the County first created and began following its **Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) and the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)** Forsyth's population was **98,407**. By 2020, it had more than doubled to **251,283**.

Staff Focusing on Stormwater and Watershed Protection Work to Maintain and Improve Healthy Local Waters

- » **Inspect and maintain** stormwater infrastructure – more than **22,000** catch basins and outfalls, over **150** stormwater ponds, and **600** plus miles of pipes and ditches
- » **Prevent** pollution into waterways through litter and dumping ordinance
- » **Monitor** water quality and biodiversity by sampling water and counting wildlife

