



TO LEARN MORE

Contact your local soil and water conservation district.

A complete list of districts is available online through the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation: www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc or by calling (919) 733-2302.

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*North Carolina
Community
Conservation
Assistance
Program*



A Program of the
N.C. Division of Soil
and Water Conservation

*Working Together
To Improve Water Quality
For Future Generations.*



**COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION
MISSION**

Soil and water conservation districts providing natural resource management through technical, educational and financial assistance on urban, suburban and rural lands for the benefit of all the people of North Carolina.



What is CCAP?

A voluntary, incentive-based program to install best management practices on urban, suburban and rural lands. Through CCAP, educational, technical and financial assistance is provided to landowners.

Who is eligible?

Homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches and other civic and community groups—essentially, all private and publicly owned lands are eligible for the program.

Why do we need this program?

With population growth and development at record rates in North Carolina, CCAP is needed to educate citizens about improving water quality. The program's goals are to treat polluted stormwater runoff and improve the water quality of our state's waterways.

What is CCAP?

Landowners submit applications to their local soil and water conservation districts to determine ranking. If the proposal is eligible, a conservation plan is prepared for the applicant to install the BMP (a landscaper may be used). The landowner may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost.

What best management practices are approved for CCAP?

Many best management practices are eligible. This brochure explains several approved BMPs. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.

Approved Community Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs)



RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Riparian buffers are areas of native trees and shrubs located adjacent to a body of water. These buffers serve as a barrier to nonpoint source pollution from stormwater. Buffers also filter runoff, control flooding, protect property from erosion and provide essential wildlife habitat.



BACKYARD RAIN GARDENS

Backyard rain gardens, also known as bioretention areas in larger scale settings, are small depressions in the landscape that are used to collect stormwater runoff for a short period of time. They typically hold water less than 48 hours. Rain gardens are placed between stormwater runoff sources such as roofs and driveways and the nearby receiving waters such as storm drains or creeks. Rain gardens can include a variety of trees, shrubs and perennial plants that provide habitat and help treat runoff.



BACKYARD WETLANDS

Backyard wetlands, known as stormwater wetlands on a larger scale, are constructed to mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They are intended to hold water and are planted in naturally wet areas. Backyard wetlands temporarily store, filter and clean stormwater runoff using plants that thrive in wet conditions. Wetlands also provide wildlife habitat, flood water storage and they replenish groundwater.

STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

Streambank and shoreline protection is the use of vegetation to stabilize and prevent erosion of the banks of streams, lakes or other waterways. This BMP restores the natural function of the stream and improves water quality. Erosion leads to sediment build up, loss of habitat, flooding, loss of property and poor water quality. This practice prevents erosion, restores wildlife habitat, reduces flooding and filters polluted runoff.

CISTERNS

Cisterns are above or below ground storage tanks designed for collecting rainwater for use in watering lawns, gardens, landscape or indoor plants. Cisterns are intended to reduce stormwater runoff, encourage runoff infiltration and conserve water.



PET WASTE RECEPTACLES

Pet waste receptacles are designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after their animals. When maintained properly, this practice reduces harmful bacteria from entering waterways. This BMP is not intended for use by individual homeowners.



IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CONVERSION

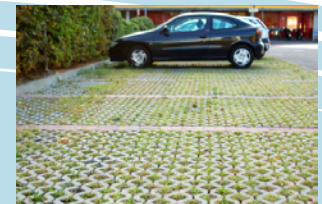
Impervious surface, are land covers such as driveways and roads that do not allow percolation of rainwater into the ground or vegetation. This BMP allows for removal of impervious surfaces and conversion to a more permeable surface. This practice must be combined with vegetation establishment or permeable pavement installation.

VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT

Vegetation establishment involves planting woody plant species using seedlings, potted specimens or burlap specimens for the purposes of water quality improvement, erosion control, wildlife habitat and energy conservation. This BMP is only eligible as a component of impervious surface conversion.

PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable pavement is an alternative to conventional concrete and asphalt paving. It allows runoff to soak back into the ground instead of running off. Permeable pavement can be used for driveways, walkways and low flow parking lots. These materials reduce runoff, decrease flooding, filter pollutants and recharge groundwater. This BMP is only eligible as a component of impervious surface conversion.



Other eligible BMPs include grassed swales, critical area plantings, diversions and stream restoration. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.