



CLEAN WATER
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Sturgeon Creek Watershed

Leland

ncbrunswick.com

Get to know your watershed:

16.1 mi²
area

12.8 miles of streams

1 impaired
waterway

Predominately
commercial &
residential



Where is it?

Sturgeon Creek watershed is approximately 25 miles north of the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The namesake creek begins on the west end of the watershed, flowing east to join the Brunswick River. In the northern area of the watershed, Banton Branch and Rowell Branch join to form Mill Creek, which flows into Sturgeon Creek on the east end of the watershed. The Brunswick river is a 6-mile offshoot of the Cape Fear, which encompasses a beautiful coastal wetland area, before rejoining the Cape Fear on its path to the mouth, between Oak Island and Bald Head Island.



Water quality in Sturgeon Creek Watershed

Sturgeon Creek is the one impaired waterway in the watershed. Impairment is an EPA designation, in this case due to the presence of heavy metals in fish, leading to a fish consumption impairment. Levels of 40 chemical parameters were assessed to be within acceptable levels, so EPA designated the overall water quality to be good for human health. As a coastal watershed, non-point source pollution is of particular concern for ecosystem health, as the wetlands and estuarine areas of the Cape Fear River are critically important for fisheries and other aquatic wildlife that rely on these calmer areas for breeding grounds, food, and habitat for some or all of the year. Residents throughout the watershed can make a significant impact on water quality by managing common stormwater pollutants.



Clean Water Begins with you and me

Stormwater pollution threatens our waterways:

- Clean up **litter** whenever you see it!
- Always pick up your **pet waste**. Scoop the poop!
- Keep your vehicle maintained to prevent **oil** leaks.
- Check if there's rain in the forecast before applying **fertilizer, herbicides, or pesticides** to your yard.
- Check the labels or call your local government to ensure proper disposal of **household hazardous waste** (paint, medication, cleaning products, batteries, and more).
- Mulch, compost, or bag your **yard waste**.



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Native vegetation & riparian buffers



Sea lavender

These small flowering plants bloom throughout the fall, attracting native pollinators. They thrive in sandy soil.



Coastal sweet pepperbush

These shrubs can grow up to 10 feet tall, with flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.

Broadleaf whitetop sedge

Many varieties of sedge are well adapted to wet soil. The whitetop sedge is one of the only varieties that has visible flowers, making it a popular choice for rain gardens and bioswales.



Wild olive

Well adapted to sandy soils, these small trees grow well in dunes and marine forests.



Vegetated areas adjacent to rivers & lakes are called **riparian buffers** - they help stabilize the banks, soak up excess water, filter pollutants, and reduce erosion!

CWEP Government Partners

Town of Leland Stormwater

(910) 408-3052



If you notice stormwater pollution in your watershed, you can report it to town officials. We can all help to keep it clean for those downstream!

More information:

CWEP hosts educational events in communities across the Neuse, Cape Fear, and Tar-Pamlico river basins.

Scan with your smartphone for rain garden tips you can implement at home (NCCF).



Special thanks to PTRC's Stormwater SMART for the original watershed profile concept.

Contact cwep@tjcog.org or visit nc-cleanwater.com.