

Pitt County Erosion and Sediment Control

Spring Issue

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This quarterly newsletter is intended to increase public awareness and provide educational information on the importance of preventing erosion and sedimentation. This publication also serves to recognize features of the Pitt County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program. Since 1974 Pitt County has administered and enforced locally the provisions of the North Carolina Sedimentation Control and Pollution Act.

Tar-Pamlico Stormwater Rules

In 2000, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) adopted a set of nonpoint source rules, under the Tar-Pamlico Nutrient Sensitive Waters Strategy, which established a new criterion for stormwater management in urbanized areas of the Tar-Pamlico river basin. The rules became effective on April 1, 2001. On February 13, 2003, the EMC approved a model program based on this rule. Pitt County must submit a local stormwater program to the Division of Water Quality by February 13, 2004. In the coming months, Pitt County and the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) will be conducting public forums to inform, educate, and discuss these new regulations with the community. For more information on the model program and its appendices please go to: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/tarpam.htm>, or contact the Pitt County Planning Department at (252) 902-3250.

The Best Way to Use Best Management Practices

A recent survey conducted by the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) questioned construction-site inspectors concerning the correct usage of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The results indicated a variety of ways BMPs are misused, including:

- *Check dams*: “Too far apart and too much slope to the channel.” “Ineffective when water flows around the ends instead of over the top.”
- *Temporary seeding*: “Not planted in timely manner.” “Not watered.” Sites remain unvegetated for long periods of time.”
- *Silt fence*: “Gaps allowing runoff to flow underneath.” “Installed running up and down slopes.” “Almost never maintained.”
- *Sediment Basins*: “Usually undersized for the drainage area and run-off conditions.” “Rarely tied into existing contours.” Installed too late in construction process.”
- *Stabilized construction-site entrances*: “Installed rock is too small and not maintained.”
- *Vegetated filter strips*: “Not used enough and not wide enough.”

For more information about this, and other research conducted by the IECA, please visit their website at www.ieca.org.

Source: “Erosion Control” March/April 2003

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program Grant

A working grant proposal to install an extended riparian buffer along Contentnea Creek is currently underway. Planning Department interns Chad Strawn, Jackie Brabble, and Frankie Alt are working in cooperation with the Pitt County Soil and Water Conservation Service to submit this proposal. This grant proposal would include a public outreach facility for education. County Staff is optimistic about the positive impact this project would have on the Albemarle-Pamlico river basin and the Pitt County community.

Pitt County Environmental Education Program

Planning Department intern Chad Strawn conducts an Environmental Education program to Pitt County's after-school programs. Through use of a power point presentation, EnviroScape® model, and other exciting hands-on activities, the program increases students' knowledge on environmental issues affecting Pitt County, such as soil erosion and sediment control. The Pitt County Planning Department would also like to thank all of the County's after-school programs who participate in this beneficial program.



Photo: Cooperative Landscape Project with Planning and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

January-March Activity Reports

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>
New Projects	3	6	7
Site Inspections	28	25	25
Notices of Violations	2	0	3
Disturbed Area (acres)	27.03	33.53	35.10

Pitt County Planning Department



To be added to our growing list of readers:

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Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program

