

Protecting water quality, habitats, and forest health are always the primary objectives in municipal watersheds. Citizens can play a valuable role ensuring a healthy watershed especially while enjoying the outdoor activities available in Carrboro.

How can I help?

- Participate/Support Local Citizen Science Projects
- Log nature observations
- Practise Leave No Trace Principles
- Pick up litter as you go
- Report issues you observe



Scan for more information

TOWN OF CARRBORO
STORMWATER DIVISION
919-913-2999

STORMWATER@CARRBORONC.GOV

*Be Watershed
Wise While
You Play
Outside*

<https://townofcarrboro.org/2693/Be-Watershed-Wise-While-You-Play-Outside>

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science refers to multiple ways that non-scientists engage with scientific research efforts. By tracking information on the plants, animals, and environment we can track the overall health of our watershed. Check out these projects and participation opportunities.

NC Museum of Natural Science

<https://naturalsciences.org/research-collections/citizen-science/participate>

Learn about a variety of Citizen Science opportunities in NC. Track birds, squirrels, clouds and more.

Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists & Satellites

<https://www.locss.org/region/north-carolina-lakes>

The goal of this NASA-funded project is to better understand why the volume of water in lakes changes over time. Are lake volumes affected most by precipitation, water table height, evaporation or some other factors? Knowing the answer to this question will help us better understand how water moves in relation to these lakes and the surrounding land.

NC Botanical Garden

<https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/citizen-science/>

Visit the NCBG website for a list of local current projects you can participate in.

iNaturalist

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Log your nature observations, from rare butterflies to common weeds, into a worldwide database shared with scientists all from your phone or tablet. Join local citizen science observation projects and bio-thon events. Get help with identifications, follow observations from others and see what species are found near you.

NC Stream Watch

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-public-information/water-education-programs/water-education-and-outreach/nc-stream-watch>

Learn about NC streams while exploring your own. The goal of NC Stream Watch is to host observations and images of North Carolina's beautiful water resources for community members to see the diversity of waterways from different parts of the state. NC Stream Watch is a program intended for educational purposes only.

7 LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

<https://lnt.org/>

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the restrictions, Avoid times of high use and keep your group small to minimize impacts

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Keep use to existing trails, walk single file, and stay in the middle of the trail to avoid widening of the trail and minimize erosion.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Pick up found waste on the way. Food scraps should never be left behind.

Leave What You Find

Observe and examine but do not touch artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and natural objects. Do not build structures or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Fires are not permitted in Carrboro Parks and open spaces. Do not release candle lanterns. Call 911 to report fires.

Respect Wildlife

Observe from a distance. Do not feed wildlife. Do not introduce new species. Control pets at all times. Do not alter natural habitats.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.