

STORMWATER UTILITY

4 FTEs

Stormwater Manager (1 FTE)
Stormwater Specialist (1 FTE)
Stormwater Administrator (1 FTE)
Stormwater Assistance Coordinator (new)
(1 FTE)

PURPOSE & GOALS

The Stormwater Utility's mission is to improve and enhance local ecosystems and maximize quality of life/place and resiliency in relation to rainfall and runoff. The primary goals are:

- To deliver excellent service, ensuring effective and efficient use of financial, human, and physical resources.
- To manage a well-balanced public infrastructure.
- To serve as a community catalyst for the expansion of green stormwater infrastructure practices.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Pursue stormwater and infrastructure improvements and environmental protection and tree-canopy.
- Create new incentive program for businesses and households.
- Create retrofit toolbox.

SERVICES PROVIDED & ACTIVITIES

- Revenue: administer Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund; pursue other revenue streams.
- Staff support for the Stormwater Advisory Commission.
- Program coordination-interdepartmental, local/community, state, federal.
- Regulatory compliance and activities (Townwide permit-six management measures; Public Works facility permit).
- Watershed restoration activities.
- Stormwater infrastructure asset management/condition assessment.
- Supporting the community in creating resilience in the face of more frequent intense storms, within certain constraints.

PREVIOUS YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed EPA 319 grant-funded project for regenerative stormwater conveyance installation (Bolin Forest neighborhood).
- Completed stormwater infrastructure condition assessment field work.
- Completed Residential Assessment Pilot Project and developed new Watershed Restoration Residential Assistance. Program. Amended Stormwater Utility rate structure to fund new program.
- Provided staff support to the Stormwater Advisory Commission.
- Provided regulatory support for NPDES permits (Town and Public Works).

- Improved and expanded community outreach and engagement, including supporting the expansion of Orange County Creek Week activities. Coordinated with other staff and community partners.
- Administered Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR OBJECTIVES

- Maintain all existing services.
- Launch Watershed Restoration Residential Assistance Program
- Follow up on infrastructure condition assessment; program and pursue Stormwater repair and improvement projects and master planning.

**STORMWATER PROGRAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE METRICS
With a Focus on improvements AND community participation**

	Subdivided in Tracking		
1. Improvement Projects (#)	Stormwater	Stream	Riparian
1a. Improvement (linear feet)	Stream	Stormwater Conveyance (Green)	Stormwater Conveyance (Grey)
1b. Improvement (acres)	Developed area	Impervious area	Riparian Area
2. Project participants (#)	Neighborhoods	Organizations	Individuals
3. Improvement project funds (\$)	Enterprise Fund	Federal/State	Other
4. Stormwater Control Measures (#)	Regulated SCMs	New Town SCM Retrofits	New Other SCM Retrofits

The above metrics are intended for inclusion in the annual operating budget and to provide important indicators of specific annual accomplishments and goals with a focus on active and planned improvements. The Stormwater Program tracks other performance metrics as part of regulatory permits, workflow and asset management, grants, and other program activities.

Definitions

Developed Area – An area of land that has been modified from a natural condition. Includes areas with buildings, transportation infrastructure, lawns, and other types of development. The area tracked is the area treated by an SCM.

Enterprise Fund - Carrboro’s Stormwater Enterprise Fund which funds Stormwater Program operations and projects.

Impervious Area – Land area upon which rainfall is not able to infiltrate. The area tracked is the area treated by an SCM.

Improvement Project – A funded and active project during the FY and pursued with the intention of improving stormwater management and conveyance and/or enhancing streams and/or riparian areas.

Other \$ -All other \$ from sources besides Carrboro’s Stormwater Enterprises Fund or Federal/State agencies.

Neighborhood – A single family residential area that may or may not have a Homeowners Association.

Organization - An organization besides a neighborhood/HOA (other government/agency, business, nonprofit) participating in an improvement project. Does not include organizations under contract to the Town.

Participant – An organization or resident collaborating with staff to consider, plan for or complete an improvement project. Does not include organizations under contract or providing funding to the Town.

Retrofit – A type of stormwater improvement pursued retrospectively rather than during the original development.

Riparian Area – A low lying area that defines the interface between uplands and surface waters and serves as a buffer.

Riparian Project – A project intended to enhance or restore the riparian area via creation of diffuse flow through the buffer and/or establishment of native vegetation.

Stream Project – refers to an enhancement (bank stabilization or more involved restoration) project for a jurisdictional (intermittent or perennial; federal/state regulated) or Town regulated ephemeral stream.

Stormwater Project - A project focused on better managing stormwater runoff. Note that stormwater is defined as the immediate runoff associated with upland developed areas and stormwater projects are distinct from stream, riparian, and flood mitigation projects.

Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) – A stormwater management measure as defined by NCDEQ.

Stormwater Control Measure: Regulated (SCM) – An SCM regulated by the Town as part of a land use permit.

Stormwater Conveyance - Pipes and ditches (grey); regenerative conveyances and bioswales (green)

STORMWATER PROGRAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE METRICS
With a Focus on improvements, community participation and SCMs
(FY24 | FY25)

1. Improvement Projects (#)	Stormwater		Stream		Riparian	
	4(a)	7 (b)	0	1(b)	0	0
1a. Improvement (linear feet)	Stream		Stormwater Conveyance (Green)		Stormwater Conveyance (Grey)	
	0	0	800 (c)	0	470 (d)	3500 (b)
1b. Improvement (acres)	Developed area		Impervious area		Riparian Area	
	18 (c)	30 (e)	4.5 (c)	8 (e)	0	0
2. Participants (#)	Neighborhoods		Organizations		Individuals	
	1 (f)	0	7 (g)	4 (g)	83 (h)	TBD
3. Improvement project funds (\$)	Enterprise Fund		Federal/State		Other	
	\$85k (i)	\$450k (i)	\$120k (c)	\$20k (k)*	\$35k(l)	\$0
4. Stormwater Control Measures (#)	Regulated SCMs		New Town SCM Retrofits		New Other SCM Retrofits	
	180	189	1 (i)	4 (m)	0	0

Notes

- a. 319 grant-Bolin Forest (2); Residential Assessment Pilot Project (70 properties); 203 Project.
- b. 203 Project; Fire Station #1/Fidelity Street; Pipe Lining Project; Pipe Replacement Project; Anderson Park Project; Morgan Creek Project (stream); Old Pittsboro St. Project; Master Planning Project.
- c. 319 grant.
- d. 203 Project, Fidelity Street (construction).
- e. Watershed Restoration Residential Assistance Program, Fire Station #1, Anderson Park
- f. Bolin Forest (includes 3 HOAs) as part of 319 project.
- g. 319 grant partners (Orange County; OWASA; NC Cooperative Extension; Friends of Bolin Creek; UNC Eco Studio); Orange County Haw River Assembly; Urban Sustainability Solutions; UNC Eco Studio.
- h. 13 residential properties as part of the 319 project and 70 as part of the Residential Assessment Pilot Project.
- i. 203 Project, Fire Station #1/Fidelity St. (design).
- j. Fire Station #1/Fidelity St. (construction); pipe lining and replacement; Anderson Park design; Morgan Creek restoration design; Old Pittsboro design.
- k. Fire Station #1/Fidelity St. (Powell Bill funding for r-o-w construction) * potential NCDWI LASII funds (\$400k).

- l. Wild Oak Lane RSC (Urban Sustainability Solutions [319 grant]).
- m. Fire Station #1 bioretention, Anderson Park (3).

RACIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT

Stormwater Division Racial Equity and Inclusion Goals and Objectives

The Division supports the Town's goals of delivering services that help reduce disparities and promote service level equity, improving public participation in government, and supporting stormwater related leadership/capacity development for neighborhoods with higher percentages of BIPOC residents. These goals recognize the town wide interest in improved asset management, tracking and reporting, assessing disparities and promoting equity, participation, and leadership development for these neighborhoods/ communities, and improving service levels and meeting the community's public health and welfare goals. The Division supports the goals and direction established by Public Works.

The additional and specific objectives that the Stormwater Division will pursue in FY 2025 are to:

- A. Continue to work with other Town staff and community leaders with relevant insights and perspectives to better understand potential geographic and racial disparities and inequities in terms of the a) experience of flooding; b) condition of Town maintained stormwater infrastructure; c) availability and access to natural areas in general and healthy riparian areas and creeks specifically; d) interest in green stormwater infrastructure and nature based stormwater solutions- all for neighborhoods with higher percentages of BIPOC populations
- B. Continue to use the information obtained in (A) to inform and prioritize: Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and stormwater infrastructure condition assessment activities; stormwater maintenance and repair services; and planning and prioritization of grey and green stormwater infrastructure improvements and geographic and strategic priorities.

Racial Equity and Inclusion Accomplishments to Date

Projects and Services:

- Implementing workflow and asset tracking work management software that show locations of projects and services to ensure all neighborhoods are being serviced.
- Supporting projects and services that enable all residents to have equal access.
- Specifically, the Residential Assessment Pilot Project and new Watershed Restoration Residential Assistance Program included a Racial Equity Lens
- Staff supported racial equity and inclusion related components for stormwater in the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, a priority for Stormwater staff in FY 2025 will be further investigation of how to: 1) enable residents to participate and benefit from technical and financial assistance to renters and homeowners for residential installation of green infrastructure, with an ability to offer priority to more flood prone and lower income

residents; 2) plan for an incentive program for stormwater management or infrastructure mitigation projects that prioritize BIPOC-led businesses.

Community Engagement:

- Providing ongoing community education around Public Works services.
- Coordinating with Communications Department to improve accessibility to communications.

Policies and Procedures

- Continuing to seek and encourage minority participation in all Town procurement activities.
- Ensuring policies and procedures prohibit discrimination.

Staff Recruitment and Retention:

- Participating in diversity trainings to increase our capacity to serve the community.
- Continuing to create an inclusive and respectful work environment.

Critical Factors Affecting the Division’s Ability to Address Racial Equity and Inclusion

Staff/resource capacity and authority/responsibility are the main factors. The Stormwater Division is receiving a persistent and considerable demand to rapidly address issues that a) have been many decades in the making and will take many years and arguably decades to address; b) for which the Town has limited authority and responsibility to address since the root causes are primarily on private property and additionally are associated with accelerating/expanding frequency and intensity of heavy rains. Specific factors to support the Stormwater Division in this new direction include:

- a. Town policy and administrative direction and support to move forward with specific projects and initiatives, and to not overburden Stormwater staff with new/unanticipated and significant requests for services that are outside the approved budget, scope of services, and workload.
- b. Staff capacity, both with Stormwater Division and in other Divisions and Departments with which the Division collaborates and relies upon.
- c. Securing new funding and financing to meet the desired program/service delivery and expansion.

How do current/future departmental projects address race and equity? Please provide specific examples of requested budget’s approach to addressing racial equity and inclusion.

The following input into the Stormwater Division’s ability and approach to address racial equity and inclusion are offered.

- 1) The budget submittal, staff workplan, comprehensive plan and newly identified strategic priorities includes follow up on infrastructure condition assessment work and new work to identify financial incentives and develop a retrofit toolbox. Racial equity pocket questions/lens will be provided for new initiatives as they emerge.
- 2) Specifically, a component for Stormwater staff in FY 2025 will be launching a program to enable homeowners to participate and benefit from technical and financial assistance to for residential installation of green infrastructure, with higher cost sharing to lower income

- residents; 2) plan for an incentive program for stormwater management or infrastructure mitigation projects that prioritize BIPOC-led businesses.
- 3) The just completed 319 grant project is in a neighborhood that is not identified with a higher percentage of BIPOC residents, nor one that is economically disadvantaged relative to other neighborhoods in Carrboro. A nonprofit, Urban Sustainability Solutions, has used this work as a springboard to a new 319 grant and is targeting outreach in a historically underserved neighborhood (Pleasant Drive/Oak Ave. extension area). It will continue to be important to reach out to such neighborhoods in developing projects for pursuit of future grant funds. One of the drivers for this project moving forward was the amount of grass roots/neighborhood driven planning for the project. Some outreach to investigate creating this capacity in other neighborhoods will be important going forward. Town staff will work with the project partners and others (e.g., Empowerment, Inc.) to publicize and encourage outreach to neighborhoods with more BIPOC residents for which capacity building is desired. Support from other staff will be needed.
 - 4) Given that further pursuit of CIP updating is pending direction, specific information is not provided. Stormwater staff are prepared to update CIP recommendations based on the Town's racial equity tools at the appropriate time.

BUDGET SUMMARY – STORMWATER

Department	FY 2024	FY 2025
STORMWATER	Adopted	Adopted
Personnel Exp	\$348,433	\$348,433
Operating Exp	\$399,813	\$793,575
Transfers	\$314,500	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,062,746	\$1,642,008

PARKING ENTERPRISE

PURPOSE

The Parking Enterprise Fund was established in FY 2021 to track all parking related expenses for the growing needs of parking facilities in the Town. The Town Council has requested a parking study to consider the implementation of parking fees for various parking facilities. The Parking Enterprise Fund will be funded with a transfer from the General Fund, until such time that the Fund can generate its own revenue source.

BUDGET SUMMARY – PARKING ENTERPRISE

Department	FY 2024	FY 2025
Parking	Adopted	Adopted
Enterprise		
Personnel Exp	\$2,000	\$75,000
Operating Exp	\$139,000	\$141,000
TOTAL	\$141,000	\$216,000