



Morrisville Environment and Stormwater Committee

Environment and Stormwater Committee Meeting
October 7, 2026, 6:00 PM

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

- 2.a [September 2
Sep 2 Minutes.pdf](#)

3. Presentations

Stormwater Division Overview - Ben Mills, Stormwater Engineering Manager

- 3.a [Stormwater Division Overview
Stormwater Division Overview 20261007.pdf](#)

4. Public Comment

5. Old Business

Student Art Poster Contest - Gifts, volunteer sign-up

6. New Business

7. Staff Comments

Sustainability Plan Next Gen - Kimberly Conley, Sustainability Coordinator
Chair / Vice Chair Nominations Introduction

8. Committee Comments

Giant Soils and Plastics Recycling Exhibit Extravaganza - James Simmons, MESC
Chair

Council to Join MESC - February 3

Plant-Based Treaty Request to Present - November

Morrisville Land Plan - Bhavana Veeravilli, Member

9. Upcoming Events

Green Day, November 14th 8a-Noon

10. Adjournment



Morrisville Environment and Stormwater Committee

Historic Christian Church

September 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Minutes are summaries only, reflecting committee action and main points of discussion. For the meeting agenda, presentations and other related agenda materials, visit the Town website.

1. Call to order

Chair Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A committee roll call was conducted.

Members Present

Chair Jim Simmons

Vice Chair Fiona Susie

Member Bhavana Veeravalli

Member Donna Willard

Member Ikong Fu

Member Marilyn Weisz

Member Nirajan Aryal

Member Sandra Christian

Member Susan Juncosa

Member The'Shaun Jones

Member Absent

Member Bharath Somasundaram

Council Present

TJ Cawley, *Mayor*

Harrison Kesling, *Town Council Member*

Staff present

John Letteney, *Assistant Town Manager*

Brad Gagnon, *Stormwater Engineer*

Narayan Nyaupane, *Stormwater Engineer*

Public Present

Emanuela Elias, *1001 Chessway Dr*

Danielle Demateis, *4601 Langdon Dr*

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Member Christian

Second: Member Juncosa

Vote: Passes via unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.a June 3 Minutes

Motion: Member Susie

Second: Member Jones

Vote: Passes via unanimous vote.

3.b August 5 Minutes

Motion: Member Chistian

Second: Member Jones

Vote: Passes via unanimous vote.

4. Presentations

Town Council Progress

Council Member Kesling offered an overview of several important initiatives currently underway in Morrisville. He began with a summary of the Town's affordable housing and rental assistance effort, explaining the program is designed to support town employees, teachers, and public servants who often face housing challenges in the area. He noted this initiative is progressing well and reflects the Town's commitment to helping its workforce remain part of the community. Council Member Kesling then provided a brief update on Morrisville's public art program. He shared that the butterfly installations, previously approved by the Town, are being placed in various locations throughout Morrisville. Committee members took this opportunity to suggest that future art projects incorporate reclaimed or repurposed materials, which could provide both environmental benefits and cost savings. Council Member Kesling expressed openness to these ideas and affirmed that such feedback can be brought forward.

He continued with a summary of the Bus Rapid Transit project and explained the proposed alignment would primarily serve areas east of the train tracks. Because many residential neighborhoods are located on the west side, Council has concerns that this alignment would not adequately serve everyday commuters within Morrisville. According to Council Member Kesling, Council has already communicated strong feedback to the North Carolina Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and is encouraging residents to participate in the Wake Bus Plan public comment period, as this plan contains two proposed routes that could meaningfully improve local transit access. After discussing transportation, Council Member Kesling turned to fiscal matters. He stated the Town is facing pressures including a loss of revenue from commercial property tax appeals, increased operational expenses, and slowing growth. Despite these challenges, the Town continues to operate responsibly and is focusing on long-term planning. Finally, he highlighted ongoing work related to redevelopment, land use, environmental sustainability, and transportation integration. Council Member Kesling

emphasized that community input, including recommendations from MESC, plays a significant role in shaping Council direction. He encouraged members to remain engaged, noting their feedback is an important part of the town's broader planning process.

5. Public Comment

Emanuela E. and Danielle D. attended on behalf of the Plant-Based Treaty initiative. They introduced their organization and described its mission to connect food systems with climate, land, water, and public health. The representatives emphasized endorsement of the treaty as non-binding and does not obligate the town to adopt specific actions. Instead, endorsement opens a conversation about practical, voluntary measures such as educational outreach or offering plant-forward options at public events. They also acknowledged staff workload constraints and offered volunteer support to assist with any work related to the initiative. The committee welcomed their input and expressed interest in scheduling a more formal presentation at a future meeting.

6. Old Business

Student Art Poster Contest

Chair Simmons reminded the committee that volunteer assistance will be required during late October and early November to conduct administrative tasks for the annual student art poster contest. Final recognition of the winners will occur at the December 8 Town Council meeting. During this time, committee members reviewed examples of the two coloring books, and a deck of cards Staff Member Conley had commissioned for this upcoming year's SAP contest. The discussion ended with an emphasis on early planning to avoid holiday scheduling challenges.

7. New Business

8. Staff Comments

Sustainability Plan Next Gen – Update on status

Staff Member Gagnon reported fourteen proposals were submitted for the new Climate Action Plan, and the top three firms had been interviewed as finalists with a selection expected the following day. The completed plan will include a climate vulnerability screening considering stormwater, public safety, and community resilience in the face of changing climate conditions. Staff Member Gagnon mentioned there has been a documented increase in rainfall intensity as well as frequency over the past twenty years and planning for community resilience will allow our residents to be less affected by the changing climate. Members discussed the distinction between the Sustainability Master Plan and Climate Action Plan and noted the

importance of aligning meeting discussions with the forthcoming Climate Action Plan. Several members suggested conducting independent review of existing town plans and national sustainability frameworks to identify areas of improvement or alignment.

9. Committee Comments

Member Weisz discussed scheduling the next creek monitoring/cleanup on the same day as the upcoming November Green Day.

Member Susie asked about a curbside textile recycling initiative that occurred in 2019, during which residents received branded bags for donating clothing and shoes. She observed that the program was conducted only once and asked why it had not returned. The Assistant Town Manager Letteney stated that he would investigate the program's background, including vendor arrangements, implementation challenges, and whether the collected textiles were recycled or resold. The Committee expressed interest in understanding whether a similar program could be reinstated or improved.

MESC Topic Ownership Discussion - James Simmons, MESC Chair

Chair Simmons briefly encouraged committee members to take ownership of recurring sustainability topics such as recycling, water, waste reduction, and energy. He noted while some issues receive steady attention, others tend to fade between meetings. To keep ideas moving forward, he invited members to identify subjects they want to monitor or develop and to share these interests so the Committee can maintain continuity and make progress more effectively.

Theme for 2027 - James Simmons, Chair

The Committee began an in-depth discussion on potential themes for the next contest cycle. Members proposed a range of ideas including climate and energy transitions, waste reduction and circular economy concepts, including food waste and composting education. Additional concepts included packaging reduction, pedestrian walkability, multimodal transportation access, stormwater and watershed awareness, and general sustainability concepts. Members agreed that a final decision would be made at the next meeting, and that themes should be captured live on-screen during the next meeting to ensure clarity and encourage collaborative selection.

10. Upcoming Events

Triangle Environmental Symposium August 27-17th

Staff Member Brad Gagnon briefly informed the Committee about the upcoming Triangle Environmental Symposium, noting that it would run from August 27 through

Sept. 17th and feature weekly speakers each Thursday. He added that tickets were available for five dollars, making the event accessible for those interested in environmental topics and regional sustainability discussions.

Green Day – Saturday, November 14th 8a.m.-12p.m.

The Committee noted a volunteer sign-up sheet would be helpful and mentioned the possibility of coordinating creek clean-up and water-quality sampling activities alongside the event. The discussion highlighted the Committee's interest in using Green Day to engage residents and support hands-on environmental stewardship.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Member Christian

Second: Member Veeravalli

Vote: Passes via unanimous vote.

Chair Simmons adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Chair

Support Staff Liaison

Date

Date



Morrisville

Live connected. Live well.

Stormwater Division Overview



Stormwater Division

“

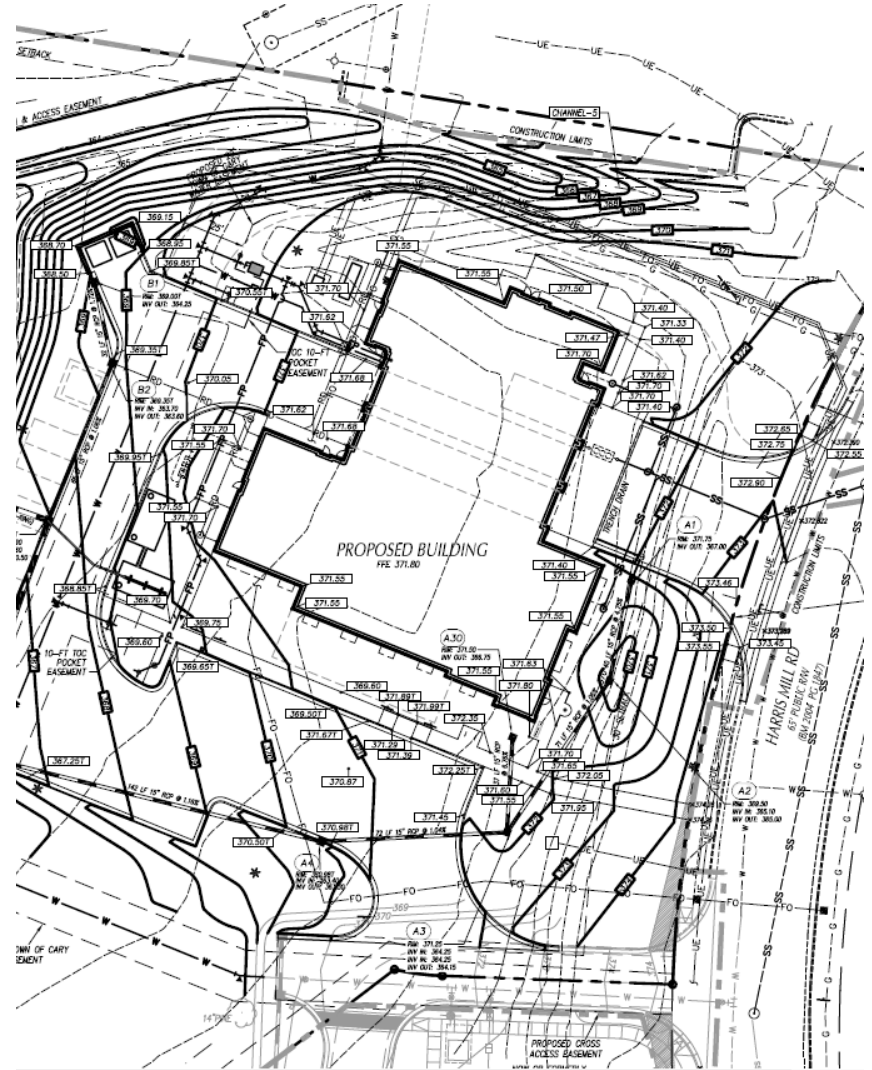
To protect water resources in the community to improve water quality, aquatic habitat and floodplain management.

Major Components

- Development Review
- NPDES Phase II Permit
- Maintain Stormwater Infrastructure
- Capital Improvement
- SCM Management
- Floodplain Management
- Neuse and Jordan Nutrient Rules
- Riparian Buffer Program
- Utility Billing
- Street Sweeping

Development Review

- Ensure site plan, construction drawings, and stormwater report comply with Town's stormwater regulations
- Issue stormwater permit and floodplain permit as necessary
- Update Town EDCM & UDO as needed



NPDES Phase II Permit

6 Minimum Measures:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Controls
- Pollution Prevention
- Good House Keeping for Municipal Operations
- Federally mandated by the EPA to comply through the Clean Water Act of 1972
- Required to have a Stormwater Management Plan
- Annual reporting
- Audited by NCDEQ every 5 years

NPDES Phase II Permit

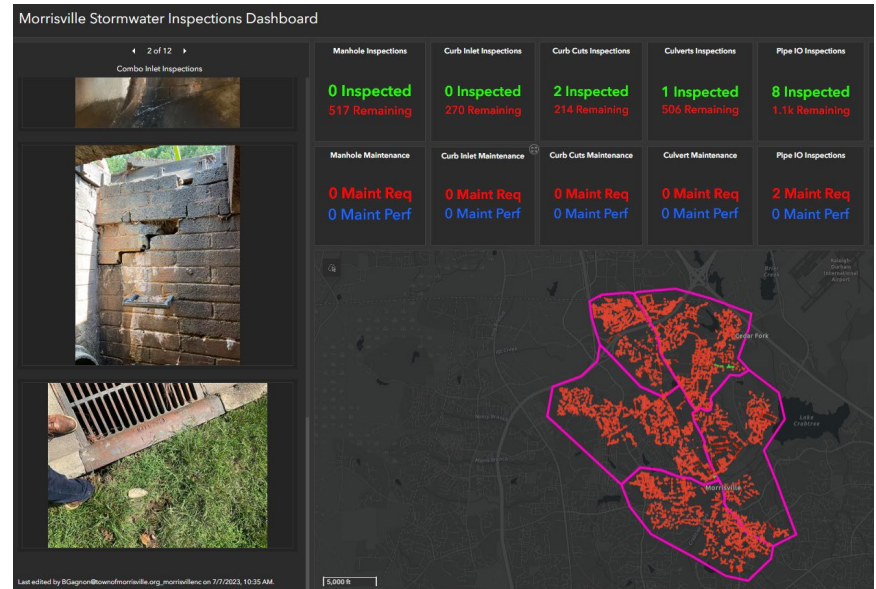
Related Inspections:

- Water quality monitoring
- Outfall inspections
- Illicit discharge inspections
- Condition assessment inspections



Stormwater Infrastructure

- Maintain all Town owned storm infrastructure
- Maintain and publish stormwater inventory
- Recently developed condition inspection program



Capital Improvement

- Stormwater master plan completed in 2021
- 10 projects identified totaling ~\$12 million
- Wolfsnare Project completed in 2023
- Sawmill Creek stream restoration currently under construction





SCM Management

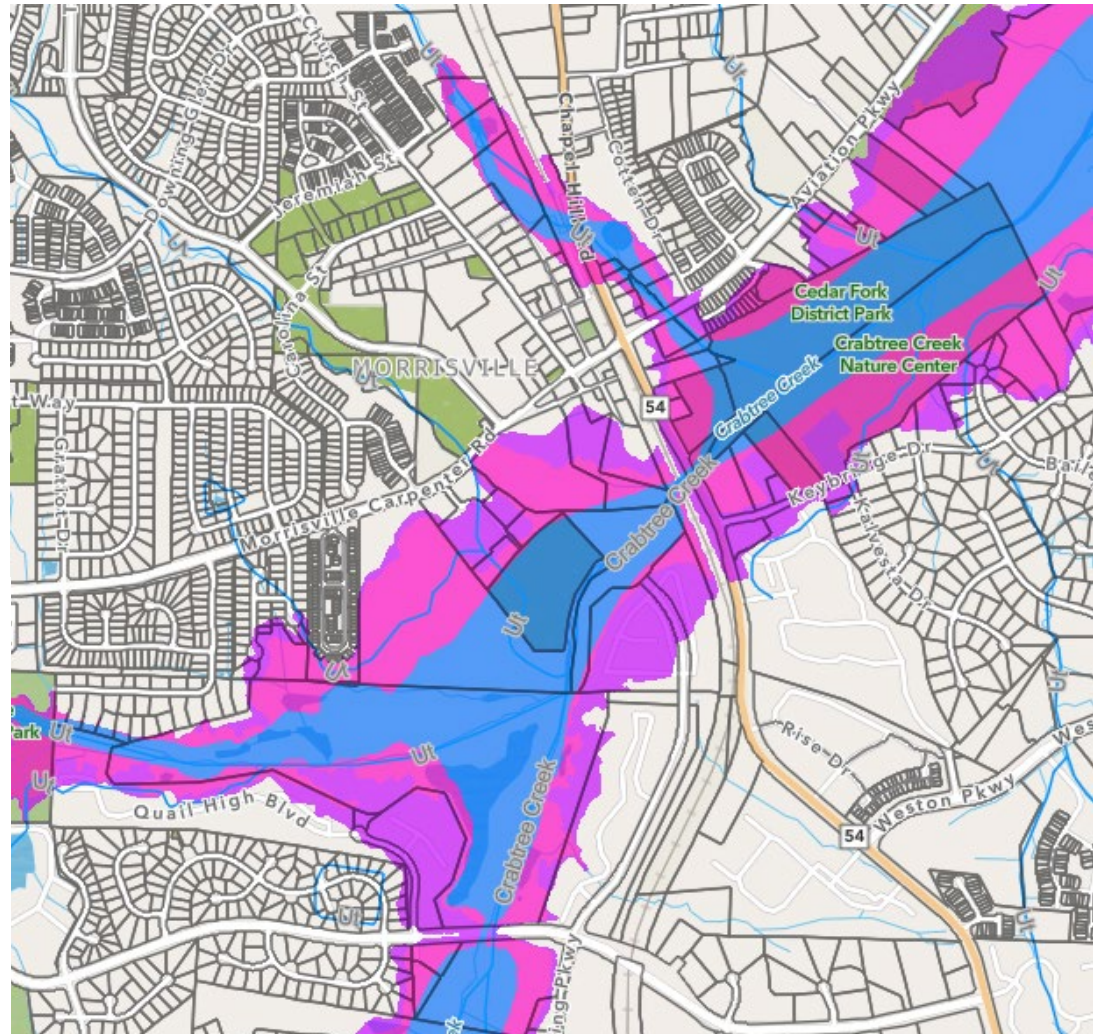
- As-built submittal and inspection
- O&M Agreement
- Annual Inspection
- Enforcement of maintenance

Floodplain Management

- Regulate development and structures in the floodplain
- Permit required for work in the floodplain
- Adopted new FIRMs and updated flood ordinance in 2022

Zone

-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Regulatory Floodway
-  Special Floodway
-  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee



Neuse & Jordan Nutrient Rules

- Mandated by the State of NC
- Regulate sources of nutrient pollution in the river basin (wastewater, stormwater & agricultural sources)
- Ultimate goal for the Neuse Rules is the removal of the Neuse estuary from North Carolina's impaired waters list and for Jordan Rules to protect and improve water quality for Jordan Lake

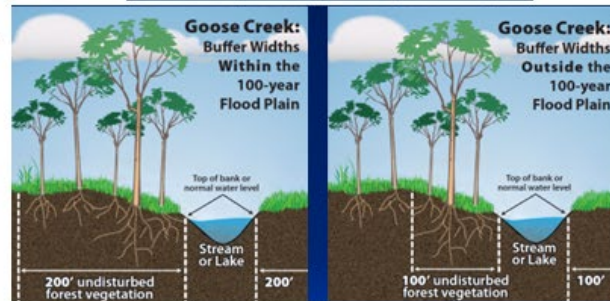
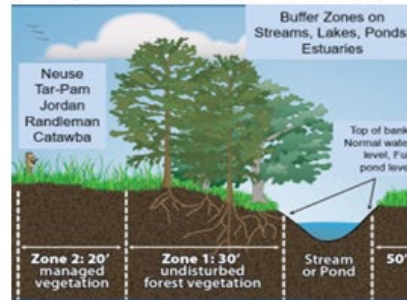
Riparian Buffer Program

Where do the buffer rules apply and why?

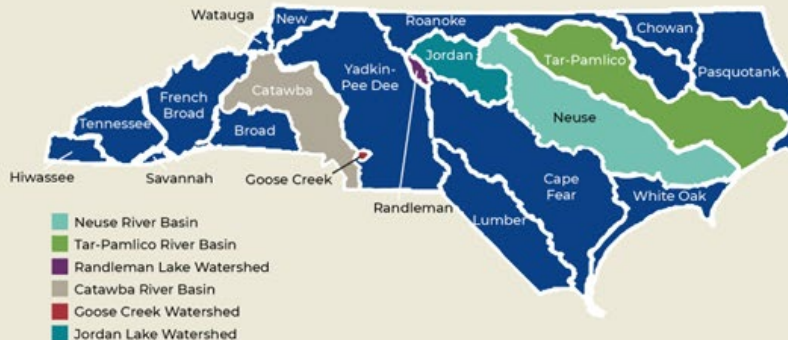
- **Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Jordan, Randleman**
 - Nutrient or pollutant removal to protect lakes and coastal waters
 - Use Natural Resource Conservation Service or a 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic map or the most recent NRCS Soil Survey manuscript
- **Randleman**
 - Protect water supply
 - On above maps and where site specific evidence indicates the presence of waters
- **Catawba**
 - Mainstem Catawba River and lakes including Lake James
 - Nutrient or pollutant removal to protect lakes
- **Goose Creek**
 - Sustain and recover federally endangered carolina heelsplitter
 - Use above USGS or NRCS maps

For map guidance contact your local government or visit:
deq.nc.gov/ncbufferrules

How wide is the buffer?



Riparian Buffer Protection Programs



Common Activities in the Buffer

Regulated activities in the Buffers are listed in the Table of Uses for Each Rule: deq.nc.gov/ncbufferrules

Please read and understand the rule including the table of uses prior to beginning any activity within the buffer. Activities may be deemed allowable, require written approval, or prohibited.

EXAMPLES OF SOME ACTIVITIES LISTED IN THE TABLE OF USES OF THE RULES



Fences, if no woody vegetation is removed



Fertilizing, only to establish replanted vegetation. Ongoing fertilization is not allowed.



Playground Equipment



Removal of poison ivy or sumac and other invasive plants as listed in a specific document



Periodic mowing in Zone 2



Planting Native vegetation to enhance the buffer



Removal of trees that are in danger of causing damage to structures or human life



Limited pruning of forest vegetation
 See Pruning definition:
 15A NCAC 02B .0610 (33)



Morrisville

Utility Billing

- Billed out annually through Wake County property tax (internally for tax exempt parcels)
- Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is 2,800 SF
- 1 ERU = \$50

2023 (FY24) STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ESTIMATES		
Use Class	Group #	Total ERUs
"Vacant" with Impervious*	0	319.48
Single Family - Detached	1	4,018.00
Single Family - Attached	2	1,294.50
Commercial	3	16,532.31
Tax Exempt	4	905.46
HOA/Misc	5	725.37
Group 6	6	65.83
TOWN TOTAL ERUs		23,860.95
Annual Cost per ERU		\$50.00
Anticipated Revenue**		\$1,193,047.50

*Some lots are classified as "Vacant" with Wake County but contain Impervious area such as Manufactured Homes, parking, etc.

**Does not include ERU fees for Town Owned Properties or General Fund contributions

Street Sweeping

- Required to sweep Town maintained roads annually
- Currently sweeping Town and NCDOT roads 5 times per a year
- 172 curb miles per a sweep (Town & NCDOT)
- ~4 tons of waste removed per a sweep





Questions?