

Heal Our Waterways: Getting Our Feet Wet

Erin S. Carey Watershed Coordinator City of Wilmington, NC



Bradley & Hewletts Creeks Watershed Restoration Plan

- Funded- Clean Water Act
 Section 319 Grant -NC Division
 of Water Quality
- Approved by the Wilmington City Council In 2012
- Stormwater Best
 Management Practices
 - -Residential
 - -Commercial
 - –Voluntary





Original Partners

Grantee: North Carolina Coastal Federation

Contributing Partners:
The City of Wilmington
Withers & Ravenel Engineers
UNCW Center For Marine Science
Town of Wrightsville Beach

State Partners:

- Shellfish Sanitation Section
- Division of Water Resources













Objectives and Actions

- Continue existing programs that address water quality impairments in both watersheds
- Determine appropriate water quality classifications and designated uses where water quality impairment exists
- Track the reduction of bacteria transport from land to water

- 4. Focus stormwater reduction efforts in locations where they will yield the greatest and most cost effective volume reductions
- 5. Form and maintain Partnerships
- Evaluate success and modify plan based upon results



Goals for Year One

- Brand the Restoration Plan
 - Name and logo
- Develop Educational Materials
 Brochures, mailings
- Develop Website
 - www.HealOurWaterways.com
- GIS Atlas
- Volume Reduction





Ongoing Projects

Tidal Creek Bioretention

 Collaboration - Tidal Creek Co-op – UNCW – City of Wilmington - NC Cooperative Extension - NCSU







Tidal Creek Goals

- Volume Reduction
- Public Awareness
 - Stormwater
 - BMPs
- Education
- Participation





NERRS Project

- \$350,000 Grant
 - Improve Water Quality in Targeted Watersheds
- Collaboration
 - UNCW, NC Coastal Reserve, NC Coastal Federation, Wrightsville Beach





NERRS Project – Part One

- Stormwater Retrofits at Wrightsville Beach
 - Underground Infiltration
 - Iula St.
 - Bioretention/ Rain Gardens
 - Reduce stormwater volume
 - Reduce swimming advisories in Banks Channel





NERRS Project- Part Two

- Neighborhood Pilot Project
 - Hewletts Creek Watershed
 - Outreach and Education
 - Test materials for HOW
 - Feedback
 - Residential BMP installations
 - Rain gardens, Permeable
 Pavement, Rain Barrels
 - Centralized Bioretention





What's Next?

- Incorporate Feedback
- Full Introduction of HOW
 - <u>www.HealOurWaterways.com</u>
 - Social Media
 - GIS Atlas
- Commercial Properties
- New Partnerships





Questions?

Zak Nople, a staff photographer for Surfer Magezine, captured this image of professional surfer Dede Surgana in Indonesia at a remote but apparently not so pristine beach. The prevalence of trash and debris in ocean is not unique to Indonesia. Zak Noyle/A-Fame