

NEWFOUND COMMUNITY WATERSHED NEWS

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NEWFOUND PROJECT HELPING WATER QUALITY!

The Newfound watershed project is still searching for good water quality projects. It is important to know that the Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District is a Non-regulator agency that first started by providing technical assist to farmers and community members on a voluntary relationship. The Newfound Watershed Project has received a new grant of

\$351,738.05 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to improve water quality for Newfound community residents.

We are interested in helping Newfound residents with water quality issues around and on their property. This can also improve land value and the overall look of your property. This picture here on the left is a current project to help fence 22 head of cattle out Newfound Creek. We are installing a watering tank and a heavy use area for winter feeding. We will also smooth and seed over this steep pasture that has been exposed to livestock



traffic to the creek. This project will greatly improve water quality in Newfound. This particular project will cost under \$10,000 and the grant will cover over \$7,000 of the total project.

If you have property in the Newfound Creek Watershed area and are interested in grant money assistance, please contact Julie Cahill, Newfound Watershed Resource Coordinator at 828-250-4792 or e-mail Julie.cahill@buncombecounty.org. Buncombe County Soil & Water is here to assist you with any community conservation needs.

LAND OWNERS NEEDED TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY!!

Under the EPA 319 Grant, we work to improve water quality by installing conservation techniques that will reduce the amount of erosion and sediment into the stream.

In this issue:

- Current Projects, pg.1
- Prepare for winter, pg.2
- Stream Restoration, pg.3
- Community Conservation, pg.3
- E-Newsletter, pg.4
- Call for Stakeholders, pg.4

PREPARING YOUR YARD FOR WINTER

With the approach of fall and cold weather, it is essential to prepare a few projects to keep your yard and garden protected through these dormant months. Prime shrubs, trees and grass now and they will return healthy in the spring. This will also leave you with a neat, well tended yard through winter.

Lawn

Although grass appears to stop growing in the fall, the roots are growing deeper to prepare for winter. Now is the best time to fertilize and reseed your lawn. Feeding the lawn early in autumn will give the roots a boost before winter arrives. A second feeding in late October will keep it winterized and strong through the freezing weather. Remember to rake all your leaves from your lawn. Leaves can cause damage to your lawn over the winter with rot, fungi and insects.

Sod & Mulch

If your lawn has some bare patches, early autumn is a perfect time to sod, mulch or reseed. Adding sod gives you an instantly perfect lawn that will be a pleasure when the warm weather returns. To firmly establish new sod, keep it moist for the first week after it is laid. After the first week, it can be watered as needed. Make sure that the sod you are having installed contains varieties of grass that are indigenous to your region. Mulch and reseeding bare spots will be cheaper than sod, but will not always guaranty a strong stand of grass. It is common to reseed and mulch in the fall and the spring to insure a healthy stand of grass all year round.

Drainage

- Check your home's drainage system. Maintaining the drainage system on private property is the owner's responsibility.
- Make sure your drainage system directs water away from your foundation and not on to your neighbor's property. Never discharge water over the side of a steep hill.
- Clean your gutters and downspouts. Check your gutters once a week during fall and winter. Just one wind or rainstorm can clog a well-flowing drainage system.
- Rake up leaves. Leaves clog drains and that can lead to flooding.
- Water is the most common cause of unstable slopes, mud slides and erosion. Check your property for signs of earth movement, such as leaning trees, or cracks in the soil and under sidewalks. If you have a problem, contact a soils scientist or soil and water conservation district employee to evaluate the situation.

In general, trees and plants with strong root structures help prevent soil erosion but do not prevent landslides.

Newfound Watershed is listed on the State 303(d) list as being severely impaired. Sediment is a large source of pollution in Newfound Creek. Do your part on your property!

STREAM RESTORATION IN NEWFOUND CREEK!!

We have all heard about Newfound Creek Watershed Project and the efforts Buncombe County has made to improve water quality. We would also like to share with you another organization that benefits water quality, the environment and landowners. The Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) offers many benefits to landowners interested in protecting and restoring wetlands, streams and riparian areas on their property. The program can cover 100% of the cost for restoration and pay the landowner up to 80% of the current land value for a conservation easement.

Sometimes, threatened or eroding streams need “fixing” to restore or enhance the natural functions that they perform. Stream restoration can improve water quality, control floodwaters, pollution runoff, reduce erosion and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

Landowners need a minimum of 2000 ft. of stream to be eligible for a potential EEP site. These projects can include several landowners side by side. There are many economic advantages for landowner(s) interested in conservation easements on the creek.

- Receive 80% of the current land value
- N.C. income tax credits
- Federal income-tax deductions
- Federal estate-tax deductions
- County tax reductions

EEP is concentrating on a few targeted local watersheds. These watersheds are impaired because of poor water quality.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION



Cost sharing on urban conservation measures will be offered by a limited number of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the next year. The Buncombe County SWCD will be a participant in the new Community Conservation Assistance Program. Funds will be available for cost-sharing through grants from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and EPA 319(h) Non-point



Source Grant. Future funding is projected to come from the state budget. Guidelines are now being developed for the program, but it is expected to operate in much the same way as the Agricultural Cost Share Program.

Homeowners, businesses, and institutions can participate in the program by installing conservation practices that improve water quality. Practices that can be cost-shared on are listed below. More information the program will be released as it becomes available. If you have questions, or would like to be considered for the program, please call the SWCD office.

Diversion	Backyard wetlands
Permeable pavement	Impervious surface conversion
Grassed swale	Riparian (Woody and herbaceous) buffer
Critical area planting	Stream restoration
Bio-retention areas	Stream bank stabilization
Backyard rain garden	Storm water wetlands
Cisterns	Pet waste receptacles



Buncombe County

Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District

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governing/depts/Soil](http://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/Soil)

*WORKING TO CLEAN UP OUR
WATERWAYS.*

E-NEWSLETTER

The Newfound News letter will be going electronic. This change will not only save the District money but it also supports conservation with the reduction of materials saving natural resources. We would still like to e-mail you a copy of the newsletter.

Please e-mail me, Julie.cahill@buncombecounty.org I will only be e-mailing the link to the newsletter web address. There will be no attachments to this e-mail. I will **NOT** give/sell this your e-mail address to anyone else and will provide an avenue for unsubscribe.

*E-mail
Julie.cahill@buncombecounty.org to
get your next edi-
tion of the New-
found News. Com-
ing soon to a
computer near
you!!!*

CALL FOR STAKEHOLDERS

The Newfound Watershed Project is looking for individuals to get involved on our Newfound Watershed Stakeholders committee. The committee meets once every quarter and offers advice to the District as to how best to approach landowners with grant money. If you are interested in becoming a Stakeholder, please contact Julie Cahill at 828-250-4785 or email at Julie.Cahill@buncombecounty.org. We are looking for committed people who live in the Newfound community. Diverse individuals are strongly encouraged to volunteer.

**Special thanks to Pigeon River Fund for Supporting the Newfound News and
CWMTF www.cwmtf.net and EPA 319 www.epa.gov for financially
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