

## Flooding

Storm water drainage is composed of creeks, lakes, wetlands, detention structures, pipes and ditches; and has been designed to hold and carry water during storms to prevent flooding. However, heavy storms may exceed the system's capacity and some flooding may occur.

Flooding can cause storm bank erosion, destroy aquatic habitats and cause property damage.



Adopt a storm drain and protect your neighborhood from flooding by keeping your drain clear of leaves and debris.

## We Protect Floodplains, Floodplains Protect Us

Land area adjacent to rivers and creeks left in an undisturbed state allows for storage of flood waters and time for flood water to safely recede. Smaller creeks and drainage ways need to be maintained so clogging of drainage ways does not occur. Do not dump grass clippings, leaves or other debris into drainage ways. Please do your part to help keep our water and waterways clean.



Upon request, the Gaston County Floodplain Administrator can perform site visits and provide floodplain information, including floodway and depth of flooding data, available elevation certificates, wetland data, and flood insurance rate maps.

To learn more about flood insurance, visit:  
[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)

For National Flood Insurance Program information NC Floodplain Mapping Program: [www.ncfloodmaps.com](http://www.ncfloodmaps.com)

Gaston County Interactive GIS: [www.gis.gastongov.com](http://www.gis.gastongov.com)



## Gaston County

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# Floodplain Information

*A Citizen's Guide on  
Drainage and Flooding*

# Gaston County

has many miles of creeks and rivers. Our water resources are one of our most valuable environmental assets. However, properties along creeks can sometime be subject to flooding. According to the North Carolina Emergency Management Agency, flooding is one of the most common natural disasters affecting Carolinians.

## How can you find out if your house is located in the floodplain?

It is important to understand whether your property is located within the limits of the regulated floodplain. To determine if your home or business is located in a floodplain:

- Visit <http://gis.gastongov.com/>
- Use the search option to locate your property; use the Toggle Layers to add additional map layers; and open the natural map layer to access the floodway and special flood hazard areas
- If you should need assistance or have additional questions, please call (704)866-3907.



## Purchase Flood Insurance

Did you know that most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage? Because Gaston County participates in the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#), supplemental flood policies can be purchased. If you need to purchase flood insurance to protect your home and belongings, contact your insurance agent. Referrals to knowledgeable agents in our area are also available at:

[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)



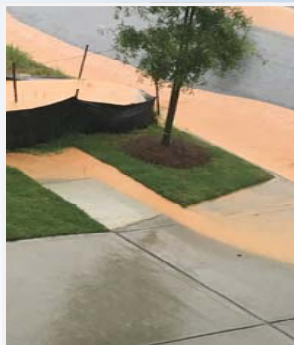
## Managing Stormwater Drainage and Flooding

Water is a good thing but too much of a good thing can cause problems. In developed areas there are many hard surfaces such as roadways and rooftops that do not allow water to soak into the ground.

Too much water running over hard surfaces can lead to drainage and flooding problems, as well as stream channel damage and water quality

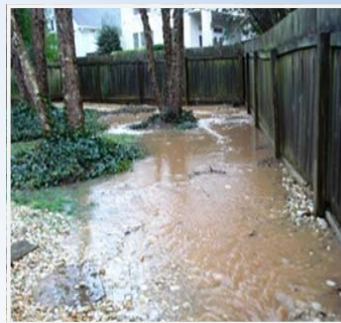


problems. Residents are encouraged to keep debris out of ditches and pipes. Litter, leaves, lawn clippings and pine needles all contribute to problems with drainage. Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in trash. Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain



barrel. Dispose of paint, oil and other household chemicals at a local hazardous waste collection site. When residents periodically clean ditches and driveway pipes or culverts around their property, stormwater runoff is allowed to drain away from streets, homes and

businesses. We can all slow and clean the rain runoff from our homes by helping the rain soak into the soil. By installing landscape features that help capture rain where it falls, instead of allowing water to run off-site.



## Reduce Stormwater Runoff



Plant a tree, reduce paved areas around your home, install a rain barrel, disconnect downspouts and or shrink your lawn and replace it with native plants.

## Managing Drainage around your Property

Drainage problems can cause significant damage to your home, it is important to identify all parts of your drainage system. Create a detailed map of your property, showing all impervious surfaces and drainage features. Consider using concrete alternatives when planning new paths or patios, sweep your driveway



instead of using a hose and add screens to gutters to help keep debris



out. Using rain barrels to temporarily store and reuse rainwater as a water source for gardens can help reduce runoff from your home. A typical house has a roof area of 1,200

square feet and four downspouts that will each drain about 300 square feet of roof. That means a rainfall of 0.3 inches will fill a 55-gallon rain barrel placed under each downspout. Rain barrels with a drainage valve can store water for use between rain events. When the valve is open, the water empties out slowly, thus reducing runoff and increasing infiltration.