

City Works



City of Burlington, NC - "Connecting the Triad & Triangle"

City Works is a quarterly publication from the City of Burlington Public Information Office.

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Enhancing Your Drinking Water

In early summer, the City of Burlington, along with seven other water distributors in the region, will change its current water disinfection product from free chlorine to



chloramines. This change will take place in order to comply with a new regulatory standard that goes into effect in April 2012.

The new standard requires water suppliers to reduce the formation of certain disinfection by-products that are

produced when free chlorine is added to treated surface water.

Chloramines are formed by adding ammonia to water containing free chlorine. Chloramines are an effective disinfectant and have been used for years by many utilities across the nation to disinfect drinking water. Because chloramines are more stable than free chlorine, chloraminated water is more effective at controlling bacterial growth in the extremities of the distribution system and typically has a better taste and smell than water treated with free chlorine.

Chloraminated water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and all other general uses.

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Upcoming Events:

April 23,
Easter Egg Hunt
(City Park)

May 5-6,
Dare Days
(City Park)

May 7,
Yee Haw! River Paddle
(Haw River)

May 13,
Relay for Live
(City Park)

May 15,
Urban Golf
(Downtown)

222-5030 for more info.

Bodies in Action Dance Program

The North Park in Motion program is continuing to fulfill its objective to encourage healthy living through dance this spring by offering a range of free dance classes in the Dance Studio at the Mayco Bigelow Community Center. The Bodies in Action Dance Program classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:00PM - 7:00PM and are taught by certified dance instructor, Jaquel Simmons.

Participant age groups include "Teens" (10-17yrs), "Early Starters" (5-9yrs) and "Itty Bitty Beginners" (2-4yrs). Participants will receive instruction on a variety of dance styles such as

Hip Hop, Jazz, Partnering, Creative, World and Line Dances.

Dancers will be given an opportunity to display their newly developed skills during a showcase that will be held on May 26th, 2011. To learn more about the free dance classes offered through the Bodies in Action Dance Program, call 222-5138.



Enhancing Your Drinking Water

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However, as with chlorine, precautions must be taken to remove or neutralize chloramines in the water used for some specialized functions. Three groups of water consumers should take special precautions when using chloraminated water:



Kidney Dialysis Patients and Providers

As with chlorine, chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. During the dialysis process, water comes in contact with blood across a permeable membrane, which causes a harmful reaction. The City of Burlington Water Resources Department has notified area kidney dialysis centers about the upcoming change from chlorine to chloramines. If you are a dialysis patient and have questions, contact your physician or the dialysis center where you receive treatment.

Specialized Businesses

Businesses using water for food or beverage manufacturing, commercial laundering, laboratory procedures, seafood handling or any other process may experience differences as a result of the change to chloramines. These business operators should carefully monitor their current filtration system and

water treatment process. For guidance regarding the conversion to chloramines and its effects on specialized businesses, owners and operators should contact their current equipment manufacturers and suppliers in addition to their product suppliers.



Fish, Pond, and Amphibian Owners

Chloraminated water that is injected is filtered through the body, but as it passes through the gills of fish and amphibians, chloramines directly enter the bloodstream and bind to iron in red blood cells reducing their capacity to carry oxygen. As a result, chloraminated water is toxic to both fresh and salt water fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Chloramines cannot be removed by boiling water, adding salt, or letting water stand in an open container to dissipate. Chloraminated water can only be neutralized or removed with specific treatment products that can be found in most pet or pond supply stores. Aquarium and pond owners should carefully monitor the ammonia concentration in addition to chlorine levels in their habitats.

Typical water consumers should notice only positive differences in taste and odor of their water as a result of the conversion to chloramines. If you have additional questions regarding the conversion, please contact the **City of Burlington Water Resources Department at 336-222-5133.**

Burlington City Council

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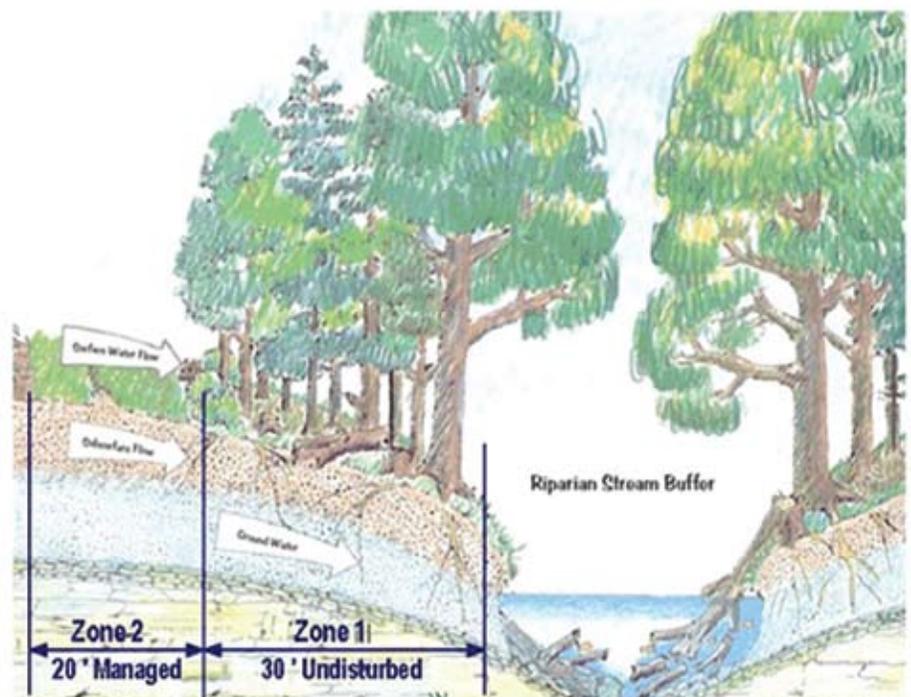
Riparian Buffers

What is a Riparian Buffer? It is an area adjacent to a stream that remains wooded and vegetated. As defined by the City's Buffer Protection Ordinance, there are two distinct buffer zones:

Zone 1 – An undisturbed or natural area that is 30' wide and runs parallel to the stream. Trees and vegetation located in this zone are not allowed to be cut or removed without approval from the City. In addition, buildings, parking lots, driveways, or other impervious surfaces (surfaces that water cannot penetrate) are prohibited in Zone 1.

Zone 2 – A 20' wide strip that is adjacent to Zone 1 but with a few more maintenance allowances. For example, Zone 2 allows lawns to be maintained and trees to be removed. However, similar to Zone 1, buildings, parking lots, driveways, or other impervious surfaces are prohibited in Zone 2.

A grandfather clause is included in the ordinance that allows some existing and ongoing uses to be exempt from this rule to a certain extent. Please contact the Stormwater Division with questions regarding this clause.



Why are Buffers Important? Stream buffers are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. They provide many benefits such as:

- Improved Water Quality
- Habitat for Animals & Aquatic Insects
- Stream Stabilization
- Temperature Control

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Stormwater Division at (336) 222-5140 or via email at stormwater@ci.burlington.nc.us

You Can Make a Difference!

The Stormwater Division will host a meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, to discuss the newly adopted Buffer Protection Ordinance and the many stormwater related programs that involve the City. Please save the date and plan on being at the Kernodle Senior Center, 1535 S. Mebane Street, from 6 to 8pm to see what opportunities there are for you to be involved!

Sustainability & Sewer Maintenance

Saving Through Sustainability

As a result of funding made possible by a grant from the Department of Energy, City buildings are becoming more sustainable. The City of Burlington's Sustainability Engineer has been working toward improving the energy efficiency of the City's buildings. Measurable success has already resulted from the energy saving efforts already implemented in six of the City's buildings.



In order to increase the sustainability of these buildings, the lighting has been upgraded to a more energy efficient design. In addition, the heating and air conditioning controls in the City Municipal Building and the Water & Sewer Division's Belmont Labs have been changed to use the least amount of energy possible while the buildings are unoccupied at night and during the weekends.

The City was recently able to realize the savings that resulted from the implementation of these sustainability measures. The energy-conserving lighting upgrades in six buildings and HVAC adjustments made in just two of the city's buildings have resulted in savings of \$12,200 since January 2011. The lighting upgrades alone have resulted in a 20% reduction of the total electric bill for the upgraded buildings.

The savings that result from energy-conservation upgrades are on-going. The City's goal is to save over \$100,000 this fiscal year as a result of reductions in energy consumption. Energy-conservation projects within the City are still in the works and will be highlighted as they are completed.

Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

Understanding sanitary sewer maintenance may not be your first priority, but it could save you a bundle in the event of a sewer backup. Knowing some basic facts about the City of Burlington's Sewer System can help you efficiently remedy any sewer backups that you may encounter.

1. The City of Burlington maintains the sanitary sewer main line.
2. Property owners maintain the lateral line.
3. Property owners are responsible for blockages and breaks that occur from the main line to the house, including those that happen within the right-of-way and under the road (the lateral line).
4. If a sewer backup occurs, property owners should call the City of Burlington's Water and Sewer Pipe Maintenance Division (336-222-5140) BEFORE calling a plumber.
5. The City will check the main line to ensure it is flowing freely. If it is, the property owner will be notified that the blockage is in the lateral line and that they should take decisive action to correct this by contacting a plumber.
6. If the lateral is broken within the right-of-way, a permit must be obtained from the Engineering Department prior to repair.

