



WATER QUALITY SPOTLIGHT ON STORM DRAIN ART

Two local students transformed everyday storm drains into vivid reminders of the need to keep pollutants, trash, and debris out of the stormwater system to help protect local water quality. **“Only rain goes down the drain”** was the theme for the 3rd Annual **Storm Drain Art Contest** sponsored by **Keep Forsyth County Beautiful (KFCB)** and the **Forsyth County Department of Water & Sewer**. The contest seeks original artwork from middle and high school students that educates the community on water quality while highlighting a specific theme and serving as a spot of beautification in local neighborhoods.

Emma Arnett winning storm drain art



Aditri Thakur winning storm drain art



See more at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBoCuv>

This Spring, winners **Emma Arnett of West Forsyth High School** and **Aditri Thakur of South Forsyth Middle School** received \$100, certificates of recognition, and got to paint their design on storm drains near their schools.

Local students will get their next chance to shine the spotlight on water quality when the 2025 Storm Drain Art contest opens for submissions early next year. **KFCB** offers several volunteer opportunities that support improving water quality and the local environment.

Learn more at keepforsythcountybeautiful.org.



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THE RESOURCE UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER

WATER QUALITY CHALLENGE: THE BIG IDEA BEHIND IDDE



IDDE stands for **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**. While it may sound like something out of a spy movie, it's actually a key component of stormwater management that helps protect water quality.

Illicit discharges refer to any type of pollutants, including dirt, chemicals, trash, debris, pathogens (from animal waste) that get washed into local waterways during storms and rain events.

Impaired water quality can affect recreational activities such as swimming and fishing, can damage local habitats for plants and animals, and can even lead to increased costs for water treatment.

The detection part of an IDDE program can be challenging when sources of illicit discharges are intermittent or hidden. This can include leaks and illegal connections to the stormwater system. However, spotting other sources of illicit discharges doesn't take any kind of special training or equipment – just a keen eye and awareness of what can harm our local environment.

**Keep reading to find out how
you can be a Water Quality
Watcher!**



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The Department of Engineering publishes *The Resource* on a regular basis to build community knowledge and understanding of our shared water resources.

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IF IT LOOKS ILLICIT, DON'T DISMISS IT!

Detection and **Elimination** are the call to action of an IDDE program. With a multitude of creeks and streams crisscrossing Forsyth County, plus Lake Lanier, ensuring that the County maintains and improves water quality takes everyone doing their part to identify and report illicit discharges.

COMMON SOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ILLICIT DISCHARGES



Vehicle fuel and fluid leaks



Leaves and debris blocking drains and catch basins



Roadside and parking lot litter



Failing or improperly installed silt fencing



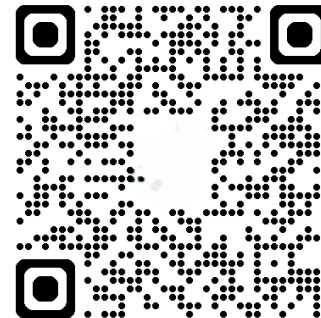
CLICK, SCROLL, OR CALL TO REPORT ILLICIT DISCHARGES

Now that you know what illicit discharges look like, you can do your part to help eliminate them by reporting through **Connect2Forsyth**. The mobile application or online portal is the County's one stop shop for connecting to all things Forsyth and flagging any issues, including stormwater problems that can affect our local water quality. The mobile app can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store. Visit www.forsythco.com/311 to get started or scan the QR code.

You can also call the **Department of Engineering** administrative office at **770-781-2165** during business hours Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Be sure to include details to help stormwater inspectors respond to the issue, such as:

- » Specific address or detailed location of the concern
- » Detailed description of the concern
- » Complainants contact information



Overflowing or leaking dumpsters

Be a Water Quality Watcher!