



CCAP – Commonly asked questions

What is CCAP?

CCAP or Community Conservation Assistance Program is a new program founded by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, funded by the NC General Assembly and administered by local Soil and Water Districts.

CCAP is a voluntary program that targets urban, suburban and rural landowners to help them reduce their contribution to nonpoint source pollution.

What is nonpoint source pollution?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many different sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks;
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems

(www.epa.com)

How does CCAP target nonpoint source pollution?

The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission have identified 15 Best Management Practices (BMP's) that target and treat nonpoint source pollution. The 15 BMP's are;

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ Backyard Rain Garden | ○ Riparian Buffer |
| ○ Backyard Wetland | ○ Stream Restoration |
| ○ Cistern | ○ Streambank Protection |
| ○ Critical Area Planting | ○ Diversion |
| ○ Bioretention area | ○ Grassed Swale |
| ○ Stormwater Wetland | ○ Pet Waste Receptacle |
| ○ Well Closure – hand dug only | ○ Permeable Pavement** |
| ○ Impervious Surface Conversion | |

**only available in pre-determined areas of NC

What kind of financial assistance is available?

Because this is a cost-share program, the state may reimburse qualified participants for up to 75% of the average cost of installation of a specified BMP.

What does that mean?

It means if you have an approved CCAP contract, after installation of the approved BMP is completed, you will submit all receipts for the BMP to your District Board. A request for payment form will be filled with the state and you will be issued a payment reimbursing you for up to 75% of the average cost** of installation of the BMP.

***Most items are reimbursed on an average cost bases. Meaning you will only be eligible to receive reimbursement up to that amount. CCAP staff will be happy to explain all cost calculations for the BMP components at the time the contracts are originally signed.*

Why average cost and not actual?

A limited number of BMP components are reimbursed based on an actual cost, but most are based on average cost collected from across the state. This insures that the public funds that are used for CCAP are used economically to insure water quality benefits, while being equal to all participants across the state.

How do I qualify for the assistance?

Since the program targets water quality issues on properties, staff will have to assess the property to officially determine qualification. If you are curious and want to have an idea before arranging for the staff to assess the property, two key items** to look for in identifying water quality issues on your property are; soil erosion due to heavy runoff or a gutter that empties directly into a stormdrain/stream/body of water.

***Please be aware that the presence or absence of these two features will not automatically include or exclude you from the program. Only a qualified CCAP staff representative can make that determination*

Do I automatically get funding if I qualify for a water quality concern?

Not necessarily. Due to extremely limited funding, each application will be ranked according to a list of criteria in order to determine impact the recommended BMP would make to water quality benefits. Highest ranking projects will receive priority in funding. Depending on the funding available the District may set:

1. a limit on funds per applicant, per BMP, per year
2. a time limit for sign up by participants (ex: you can only participate if you sign up between September 1st and November 1st)

Other point to consider...

- The home/structure the BMP will be treating stormwater from must be 3 or more years old
- There will be a Maintenance period for each BMP;
 - Single family dwelling – 5 years
 - All other dwellings – 10 years

***IMPORTANT** The BMP can be inspected by the SWCD at any time during this period. If found out of compliance, the landowner may be required to repay the state a pro-rated amount of the original cost! However, CCAP staff will provide maintenance guidelines so that you can successfully maintain your BMP(s) through the contract period!*

- Design and installation - The BMP will be designed and sized by the SWCD/Division of SWC. Installation of the BMP must follow the specs. of the design in order to be approved for requested reimbursement payment.
- The landowner is responsible for all necessary permits for construction or installation!
- Please be aware of all electrical and utility lines before proceeding. Call before you dig, 811 or 1-800-632-4949
- More information on Backyard Rain Gardens how-to can be found at www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/raingarden/

This sheet is constantly being updated as new guidelines &/or BMPs are added to CCAP, please contact the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District for more information or to apply, 919-560-0558