



F.A.Qs – Frequently Asked Questions

What is CCAP?

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is a program initiated 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 reduce contributions of nonpoint source pollution to local waterways.

What is nonpoint source pollution?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many 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, eventually 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, and;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems.

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How does CCAP target nonpoint source pollution?

The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission have identified 15 Best Management Practices (BMPs) that target and treat nonpoint source pollution. The 15 BMPs 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 | |

What kind of financial assistance is available?

Because this is a cost-share program, the state may reimburse qualified participants up to 75% of the average cost of installation of a specific 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 completed and submitted to 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. Specific criteria used to assess CCAP eligibility include soil erosion due to heavy runoff and/or direct runoff (often via a downspout) into a storm drain/stream/body of water**.

***Please be aware that the presence or absence of this criteria 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 to determine the impact the recommended BMP will have on water quality benefits. Highest ranking projects will be prioritized for funding. Depending on available funding, the District may set:

1. a limit on funds per applicant, per BMP, per year, and/or;
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 points to consider...

- Sites must have been developed for 3 years or more.
- There will be a Maintenance period for each BMP;
 - Single family home sites – 5 years
 - All other sites – 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. 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 specifications of the design in order to be approved for requested reimbursement payment.
- The landowner is responsible for all necessary permits for construction or installation. Permit fees required for any CCAP BMP are not eligible for cost share assistance.
- Please be aware of all electrical and utility lines before proceeding. Call before you dig, 811 or 1-800-632-4949.

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.