

CONSERVATION CORNER

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District



We offer **free** educational opportunities and resources to Durham County schools and teachers.

Upcoming Events

- * **February 27, 2026**
5:00 PM
Envirothon team forms due.
- * **March 27, 2026**
5:00 PM
Conservation Education Teacher of the Year nominations due.
- * **March 31, 2026**
11:59 PM
Resource Conservation Workshop applications due.
- * **April 8, 2026**
5:00 PM
K-2 Bookmark Contest entries due

Spotlights



Trinity Service Project

We're partnering with Trinity School, Orange SWCD, and DCo Open Space on a service project at Hollow Rock Nature Preserve.



Envirothon Training

Envirothon Training is underway! Teams at Jordan High kicked off the season with wildlife trainings.



BETC - Fall Cohort

Our Northern High School BETC cohort designed and constructed two rain gardens.



Employee Awards

Lisa Marochak and Sherry Scully were honored with awards at the NCASWCD annual meeting.

CONTACT US

Lisa Marochak
lmrochak@dconc.gov
919-560-0558

Elicia Senff
esenff@dconc.gov
919-560-0558

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Classroom Presentations

We offer classroom presentations and hands-on activities on a variety of natural resource topics for classes across Durham.

Popular presentations include soils and erosion, watersheds, wildlife, water quality, waste management, agriculture, and more!

Schedule a Program

Lisa Marochak
lmrochak@dconc.gov
919-560-0558

Elicia Senff
esenff@dconc.gov
919-560-0558

Free Programs and Resources



We're available to table at science days, career fairs, and civic events.



Invite our mascot, Sammy Soil, to your school or event.



Durham educators can rent books from our Learning Library. Free! [Click here to rent books.](#)



Durham K-5 teachers can enter our monthly ag-book giveaway! [Click here to enter.](#)



Durham Creek Week

Mark your calendars for March 14-21! Durham Creek Week is a time to discover and clean up our local streams.

Contact us if you'd like to host an event at your school. We can host:

- Water Quality Lessons
- Stream Studies
- School Ground Clean-Ups
- And More!

Engage your class with [Creek Week Bingo](#). Complete 5 spaces to receive a Creek Week patch.

[Click here](#) to discover events and additional resources or scan the QR code.



Follow us!



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CONTESTS

K-2nd Bookmark Contest

Students in grades K-2nd are invited to participate in the annual Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District.

This year's theme is: **Growing a Garden**

What do you need to grow a garden? What kind of plants grow in gardens? Who lives in a garden? Explore these questions and more!

Entries are due: April 8th at 5:00 PM. Contact us to have them picked up from your school.

First and second place winners for each grade level will be invited to our Annual Awards Banquet, and they will receive a yard sign and laminated copies of their bookmark.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to view the entry form and rules.



Winners from past Bookmark Contests.

Conservation Education Teacher of the Year



Nominate yourself or an outstanding K-12th grade teacher you know who excels in conservation and environmental education in the classroom.

Awards are given to a primary and secondary grade teacher. Winners are awarded a plaque and a cash prize of \$100 at our Annual Conservation Awards Banquet.

Applications Due: March 27 by 5:00 PM

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to nominate a teacher, including yourself!



ENVIROTHON



Area IV Envirothon Regional Qualifying Competition

The 2026 Area IV Envirothon Regional Qualifying Competition will be held March 19, 2026 at Owens Recreational Park.

All required forms are due February 27th at 5:00 PM. Send completed forms to Lisa at Imarochak@dconc.gov.

Access Required Forms

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to access Envirothon forms.

Questions? Contact Lisa at Imarochak@dconc.gov.



Resource Boxes & Training

Teams can borrow training materials to use on their own time. This includes our set of pelts and skulls and macroinvertebrate samples.

We also work with teams to coordinate training sessions with resource professionals. Contact Lisa to schedule a training session or to rent a resource box.

Important Dates

* February 27, 2026

All forms due! Send them to Imarochak@dconc.gov

* March 19, 2026

Area IV Envirothon
Regional Qualifying
Competition.

* April 24-25, 2026

NC Envirothon State
Competition.

Area IV Envirothon Advisor's Workshop

Topic

Critical Minerals & The
Environmental Impact of A.I

Details

- 9:30-11:15 AM
- 101 S Bickett Blvd,
Louisburg, NC 27549
- CEU's are offered

RSVP:

Use [this link](#), scan the QR code
or call 919-560-0558.

RSVP by
March 13th at
5:00 PM



**Workshop is for Area IV
Envirothon Advisors only.**

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

RCW Details

- * June 14-19, 2026
- * North Carolina State University
- * Applications open to rising 10th-12th graders
- * A chance to win scholarships and awards

Cost

Free!

Durham SWCD's Board of Supervisors sponsors at least one student a year. The student is only responsible for transportation to and from NCSU.

Applications Due

March 31, 2026

11:59 PM

Students can use [this link](#) or scan the QR code below to complete the application



The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) is a weeklong camp for students who are interested in conservation, the environment, and our state's natural resources. The camp is sponsored by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The RCW targets hopeful future environmental professionals by giving students a first-hand look at a wide array of conservation careers. Students participate in field studies, hands-on sessions, and field trips.

The Durham SWCD's Board of Supervisors is committed to sponsoring at least one Durham County student delegate per year who wants to attend the workshop. The Durham SWCD will pay all registration fees. The student will be responsible for their own transportation to and from NCSU.