

2020 Raleigh Environmental Award Winners

The Raleigh Environmental Awards celebrate innovation and leadership in environmental stewardship, community engagement, business practices, and climate action. The individuals and organizations recognized have made incredible contributions to preserve and enhance Raleigh's natural environment. We are pleased to honor their commitments to environmentalism!

Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award

The Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes an individual or organization that has shown environmental leadership and recognizes the relationship and continuity of the environment, economics, and equity or social justice aspects of human society.

Julian Prosser

Julian Prosser, retired Assistant City Manager, was Raleigh's father of sustainability. He worked with Mayor Charles Meeker to establish the Environmental Advisory Board which helped lead to the City of Raleigh signing on to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection agreement, developing the LEED Silver building policy for new City buildings over 10,000 square feet, and recommending a goal to reduce fossil fuel use by the City fleet. His visionary, creative efforts to make Raleigh more sustainable prompted the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to honor Raleigh as its 2011 "Most Sustainable Midsize Community." Raleigh was nationally recognized by several organizations for its bold approach to electric vehicles, solar energy, LEDs and developing a green economy under his leadership.



But perhaps Julian's biggest legacy was his can-do spirit; Julian's infectious positivity made anything seem possible. One common thread through all of his roles was his innovative approach to problem solving; a "no" just made him try harder. Sustainability thinking is now ingrained in each City of Raleigh department. It runs through all of our operations, ranging from route-smart software to the decision to invest in our Bioenergy Project at our wastewater treatment facility.

Julian may have retired from the City of Raleigh in 2012, but his passion for making a difference lives on in the employees who are still here. He truly is the father of sustainability for Raleigh.

Climate Action Awards

Raleigh's Community-wide Climate Action Plan outlines key areas of impacts for greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Awards recognize projects and organizations working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout our community. In 2020 we are recognizing contributions in the areas of Transportation, Waste, and Energy.

Transportation: Oaks and Spokes

Oaks and Spokes is a non-profit advocacy organization focused on creating a transportation system safe for all ages and abilities. Since 2016, Oaks and Spokes has led on advocacy efforts for a protected bike facility to connect residents in to our downtown core. A protected and connected bike network that is safe for everyone will get more people out of cars, reducing carbon emissions from Transportation, the City's largest category of emissions. Their volunteers have also engaged residents

through pop-up demonstration events, education and outreach for all ages and abilities. By working in these two spheres they ensure that people know the rules of the road, understand safety equipment, feel safe riding their bikes and will be protected by infrastructure and more visibility. They are being recognized for the considerable work they've done to advance sustainable transportation solutions in our city, and the tireless hours their all-volunteer crew have put in to make a protected bike facility a reality.



Waste: Every Tray Counts

Every Tray Counts is a NC based nonprofit dedicated to creating sustainable lunchrooms in schools across the state. They work with public schools and community members to develop sustainable practices in lunchrooms, educating students about sustainability, purchasing compostable trays and developing a compostable waste diversion program. In Wake County, Every Tray Counts worked with the school system to replace all polystyrene lunch trays with a safer alternative (compostable paper based) and established pilot composting programs in several schools. Thanks to these efforts, WCPSS is no longer purchasing styrafoam trays which sends approximately 10 million fewer trays per year to our landfills! In 2020 they will be expanding their efforts in Wake County to reduce waste and engage students, teachers and parents on the possibilities for diversion and organics recycling.



Energy: Trophy Brewing and Pizza

Trophy Brewing Company has made a bold move towards meeting net zero carbon emissions goals. Trophy has decided to lead by example in the service and private sectors to embolden others to make similar carbon mitigation commitments. The company has made a considerable financial investment in solar energy, and a green roof for its Trophy Brewing and Pizza restaurant on Morgan Street and is planning to install a bicycle parking facility. The owners believe this is the right decision for the city, the planet, and their customers. They hope that this will inspire more businesses to move in this direction and make contributions toward meeting the City's carbon emissions reduction goals and international goals set out in the Paris Climate Agreement.



Business Innovation for Environmental Stewardship

This award is presented for practices which demonstrate the business case for environmental stewardship. Businesses can make important contributions to our environment by purchasing green products, managing supply chains, reusing materials, increasing and improving recycling and waste management, and communication strategies.

North Carolina State University Housekeeping Department

NC State University Housekeeping Department has received the rigorous Green Seal certification for implementing safe and environmentally friendly cleaning services. Green Seal is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that verifies the sustainability of products and services. NC State is the first university in North Carolina and only the sixth in the U.S. to earn this certification! Green cleaning has a number of benefits to the NC State Community, including better indoor air quality and less human exposure to harsh chemicals. Plus, University Housekeeping has experienced reductions in operational costs, water use and landfill waste. NC State began its shift toward green cleaning more than a decade ago as increased awareness of environmental and human health prompted many manufacturers to develop eco-friendly options. Housekeeping also found safe, effective alternatives to aerosols and harsh chemicals. University Housekeeping has demonstrated that environmentally-friendly products and processes also benefit human health. Every housekeeper on campus is extensively trained in the green cleaning process. To maintain Green Seal certification as a cleaning service, University Housekeeping will be re-evaluated annually to ensure its cleaning products, processes and employee training comply with ever-improving sustainability requirements.



Community Action Awards

The Community Action Awards recognize volunteers, individuals or non-profit organizations working in Raleigh on the stewardship of natural resources, community-building, environmental justice or conservation.

Community Action Volunteer Award: Joshua Pil

Joshua Pil is an Environmental Technology major at NC State University and a volunteer at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. He is passionate about not only protecting the park but sharing its natural beauty with fellow students. He has organized at least half a dozen stream cleanups in just over a year, bringing his fellow students along with him. Through these efforts, he has prevented hundreds of pounds of trash from washing downstream in Walnut Creek, the Neuse River and into the Atlantic Ocean. In September 2019, his group removed 36 tires from Walnut Creek, using ropes to haul them to the State Street Bridge and hoist them the 30-40 feet up to the street level!



Then the following weekend he brought another group of students to Big Sweep. Raleigh is lucky to have champions like to Joshua Pil to raise awareness of the importance of keeping streams and wetlands clean and who are willing to get their hands dirty solving the problems of pollution. Joshua uses his own passion to raise awareness, bring people together, and create more problem solvers who become their own catalysts for change in the area of environmental protection.

Community Action Stormwater Award: St. Ambrose Episcopal Church



The St. Ambrose Memorial Garden at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church provides the community with a beautiful and functional example of environmentally responsible land use. It sits along one side of the church building in an area bordering the parking lot. This area consisted of overgrown foundation shrubs and a large grassy strip that was maintained with lawn mowers. The Garden serves the local ecosystem in a number of ways. Rain water flowing off of the church roof now flows into two large cisterns, with the overflow spilling into two rain gardens. This system reduces runoff from the church's impervious surfaces and stores water for irrigation. This reduces the church's use of the city's water supply and the negative impacts of runoff into our adjacent Walnut Creek wetlands. The rain gardens were planted with a variety of native plant forms, which enhances soil stability,

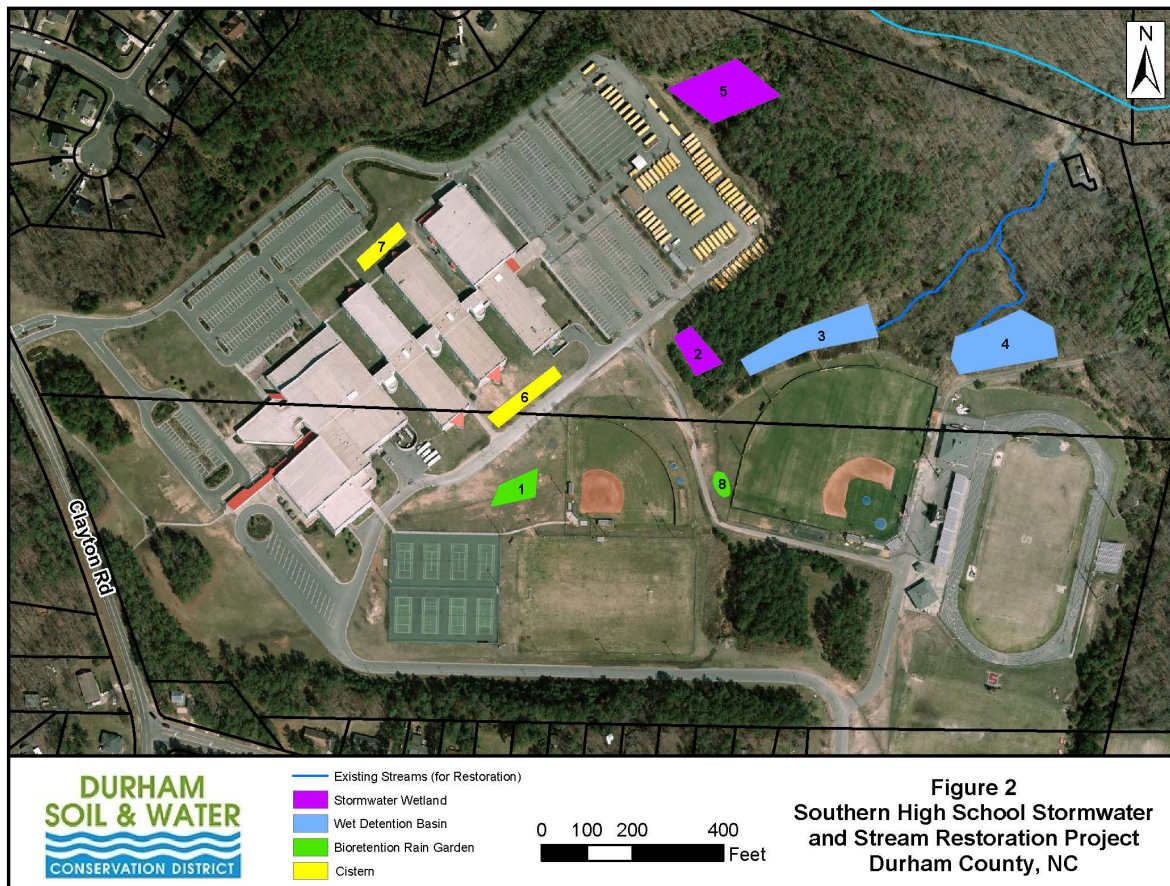
soil health and reduces the erosive power of rain events. Designed to be maintained without the use of chemical fertilizers or insecticides, the Garden promote both human and wildlife health. The Garden further benefits our environment by shrinking the area that needs to be maintained by gasoline powered lawn mowers, which reduces the Church's greenhouse gas emissions. The St. Ambrose Memorial Garden is a beautiful, respectful, and accessible place for the interment of loved ones and a functional example of the use of environmentally responsible low impact development techniques.

Drinking Watershed Protection Award Presented by Raleigh Water

Raleigh's drinking water comes from two sources, Lake Benson and Falls Lake, both of which are largely outside of the City of Raleigh's jurisdiction. This award is a way to recognize some of the great things our upstream neighbors are doing to help protect one of our critical resources – our drinking water.

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Stormwater BMP and Stream Restoration Project

The winner is the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District and their Stormwater BMP and Stream Restoration project at Southern High School of Energy and Sustainability. This project truly represents incredible environmental stewardship and sustainability. This project was a two-phase effort which included the creation of stormwater wetlands and retention ponds, as well as a stream buffer restoration including the establishment of a 2.23-acre permanent conservation easement along Chunky Pipe Creek directly upstream from Falls Lake. In the end, this project drastically improved stormwater management on the site, created a natural irrigation source to reduce potable water use, restored a streambank and even provided environmental job training to students at the school.



Capture it! Stormwater Arts Contest

The Capture it! Stormwater Arts Contest engages students to demonstrate the environmental importance of stormwater runoff. Each year, an award is given for artwork and videos promoting reductions of stormwater pollution and protection of streams and lakes.



Artwork: "Nature Depends on the Neuse"

David Manyak

David's storm drain cover art features a leaf and water revolving around each other, symbolizing that nature depends on the Neuse River. His artwork demonstrates that water pollution not only affects streams, lakes, and rivers – it affects the entire ecosystem too. David's goal was to depict that all living organisms depend on water to survive and that it's important to change how we think about water pollution.

Video: "Stormwater, What Should We Do?"

Joshua Crockett & George Li

The illustrated video created by Joshua and George shows what happens when stormwater picks up litter and other pollutants as it flows off impervious surfaces, like driveways and buildings. The video also gives good examples of what we can all do to reduce pollution to streams, lakes, and rivers. Tips include using less fertilizer, picking up pet waste, and putting garbage in a trash can.



Trashion Competition

The Trashion Competition highlights garments and accessories made from upcycled and recycled materials created by high school and college students, as well as aspiring professional designers in the Raleigh area. The competition provides an opportunity to showcase unique and recycled-inspired garments created from items that would otherwise be disposed of in the trash.

Adult Division

First Place: Carly Palmer for Net Worth

This entire collection is made from fruit and vegetable net bags, their packaging/labels, and other sources of plastic packaging. Carly designer hopes that these garments raise awareness of the vast amounts of trash that is created through these grocery items. Carly was selected because of her excellent design and craftsmanship and her creative and beautiful use of waste items.



Honorable Mention: Stan Joseph for The Tin Man

The Tin Man costume is made primarily of recycled materials. The hat was made using a plastic funnel, the sleeves made of aluminum dryer ducts, buttons are made of Coke can tops, nuts and washers, the heart is made of cotton material, nose is made of plastic rubber, and the pants are made of textile materials that were spray painted silver. Stan was chosen for this award for the variety of materials he uses, and for his boldness to act as his own model!



High School Division

First Place:

Margaret Ann Andrews

Geometric Galore

Margaret Ann Andrews created a piece, drawing materials from several different waste streams. The poncho base is an old baby blanket and the geometric triangle pattern was constructed out of plastic grocery bags. The skirt is fabricated from a pair of jeans, and ruffle detail also originated from a pair of old jeans. The necktie is one that the designer's father no longer wears, and the brooch belongs to the designer's grandmother. Margaret's work demonstrates that there are materials suitable for reuse and repurposing all around us!



Second Place:

Isabell McInnis for Cardboard Miniskirt

Isabell has created wearable skirt made from cardboard triangles from used cereal boxes, sewn with fishing line, and closed with Velcro. This design is an innovation on the traditional mini skirt. Isabell has used the fishing line as an ode to our oceans, aiming to keep them safe and free of clutter. Her work is creative and innovative and generates a unique garment from materials not normally associated with clothing.



Honorable Mention:

Ava Norris and Alice Nguyen for Midnight Masterpiece

Ava and Alice have created a dress from an old tattered choir dress, some trash bags, a plain black headband, and previously used fabric. This dress demonstrates how you can upcycle old, disused items turning them from everyday into dressy evening wear.

