

**Volunteers needed to monitor sites**

News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)

January 11, 2008

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From Staff Reports**

**RALEIGH -- Sediment carried by stormwater runoff is the No. 1 pollutant of North Carolina's lakes and streams, according to the state Division of Land Resources.**

**But the state only has 32 inspectors to cover about 9,000 construction sites, which are often the source of the runoff that degrades streams and destroys aquatic habitat.**

**That's why Dean Naujoks, the Upper Neuse riverkeeper, started the Muddy River Watch, a program that trains volunteers to recognize, document and report violations on construction sites.**

**An orientation will be held at Duke University School of Law from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday. The first training session will be from 6:45 to 9 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Brier Creek Community Center off Aviation Parkway at 10810 Globe Road.**

**"Most people don't even know who to call when they see silt fencing toppled over and mud coming into the street," Naujoks said.**

**Sediment washing into streams and waterways covers food sources for fish and spawning beds and can make streams more vulnerable to flooding as it replaces the space where water normally would be. The cost of treating the water for drinking can rise in these cases.**

**"We want to change the culture of behavior that letting runoff pollute our waterways is acceptable behavior," Naujoks said.**

**For directions and more information, call 420-2340 or go to [www.muddywaterwatch.org](http://www.muddywaterwatch.org).**

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