



Haw River Assembly Trash Traps

Keeping Our Creeks Clean and Advocating for Our Community

Madison Haley, Plastic Program Assistant

**Trash Trap in
Chapel Hill Community
Center Park**



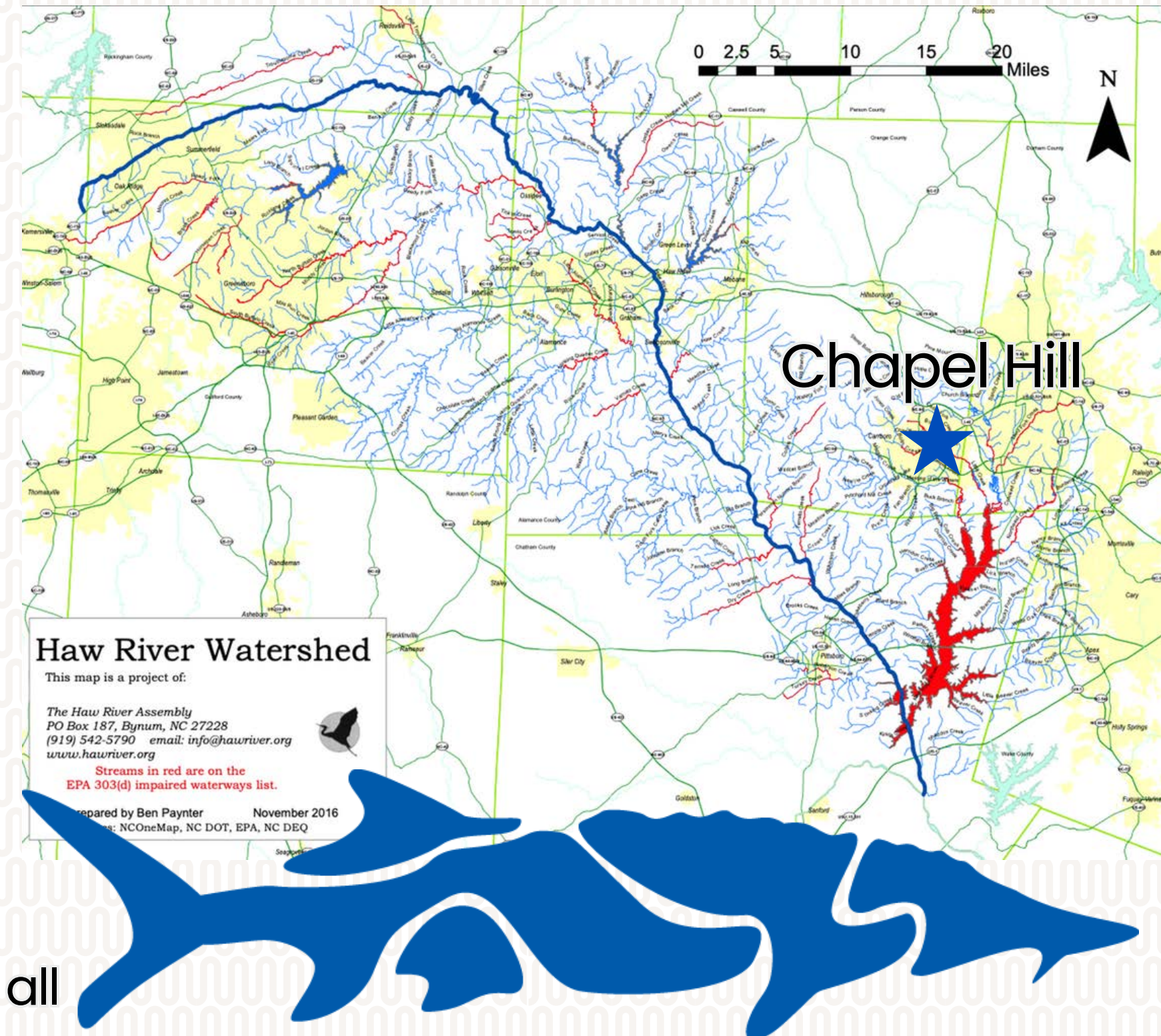
**Trash Trap in
Durham Third Fork
Creek**





The Haw River Assembly

- The Haw River Assembly is a 501(c)3 non-profit that has worked to protect the Haw River Watershed since 1982
- Key Initiatives
 - Water quality improvements
 - Stream restoration
 - Environmental Education
 - Environmental Justice
 - Industrial Pollution (incl. PFAS)
 - Sedimentation Violations
 - Plastic Pollution
 - Access to fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for all

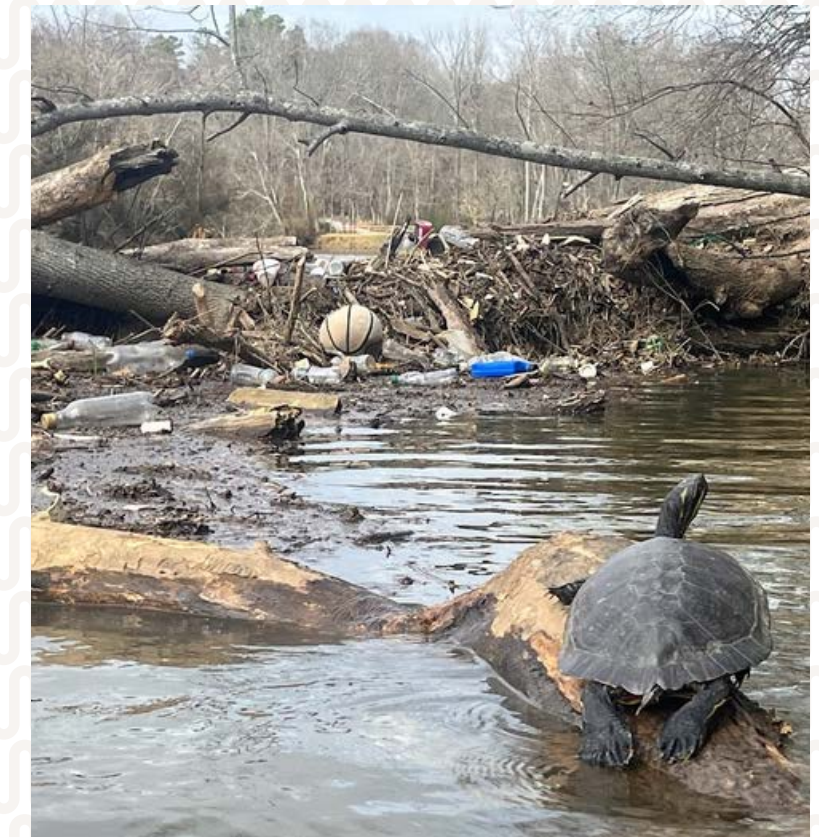
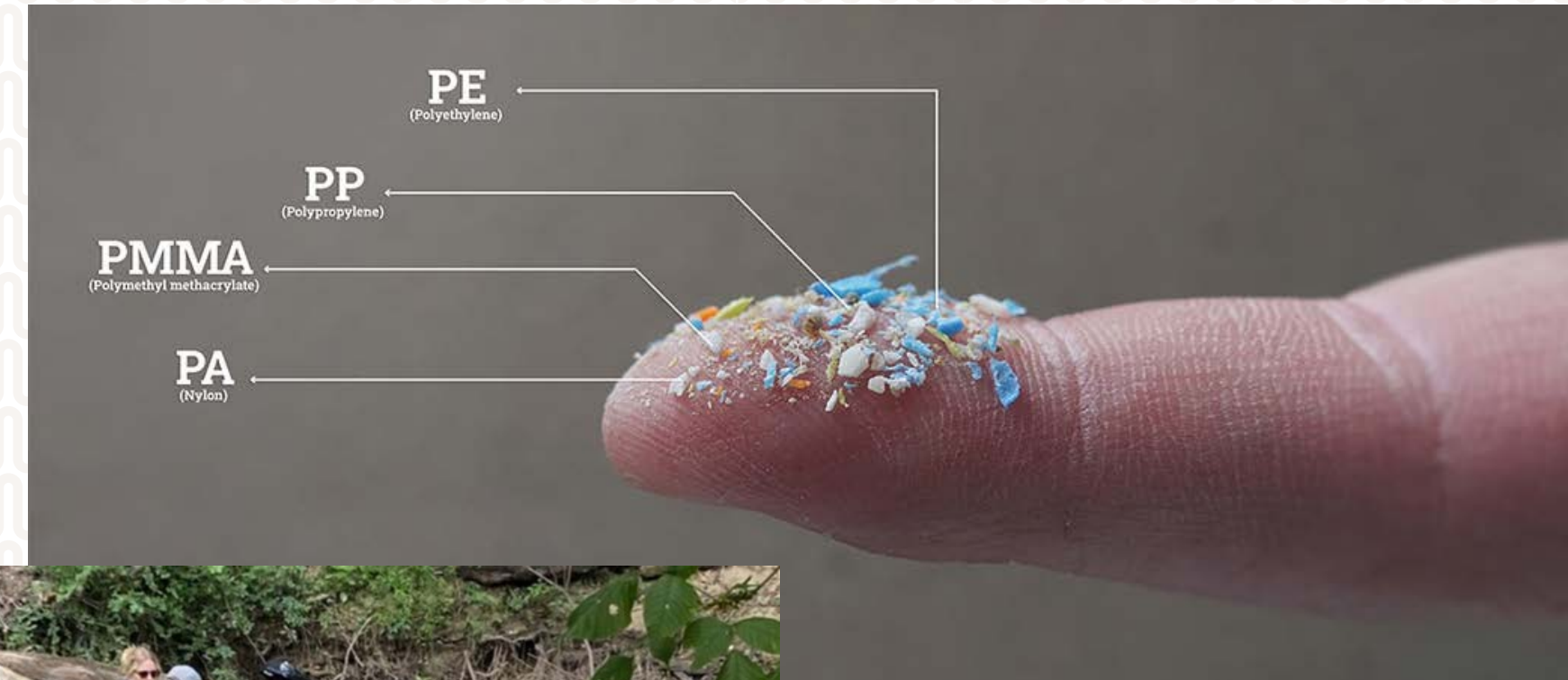


WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE



The Problem – Litter in our Waterways

- When it rains, stormwater carries litter directly into streams
- Negatively impacts residents, public spaces, recreational activities
- Plastic degrades, leading to more microplastics and toxic chemicals in our water sources
- Streams lead to the coast, polluting other communities





What We're Doing About it – Trash Traps!

“Trash Traps” are 3 sided floating traps that are placed in streams to collect litter that float down waterways.

- Clean the streams – We host clean outs about once a month
- Using Data for Good – We collect detailed data, allowing us to understand and communicate the issues
- Highlighting the issue – These trash traps help us engage folks and advocate for litter prevention and plastic reduction policies

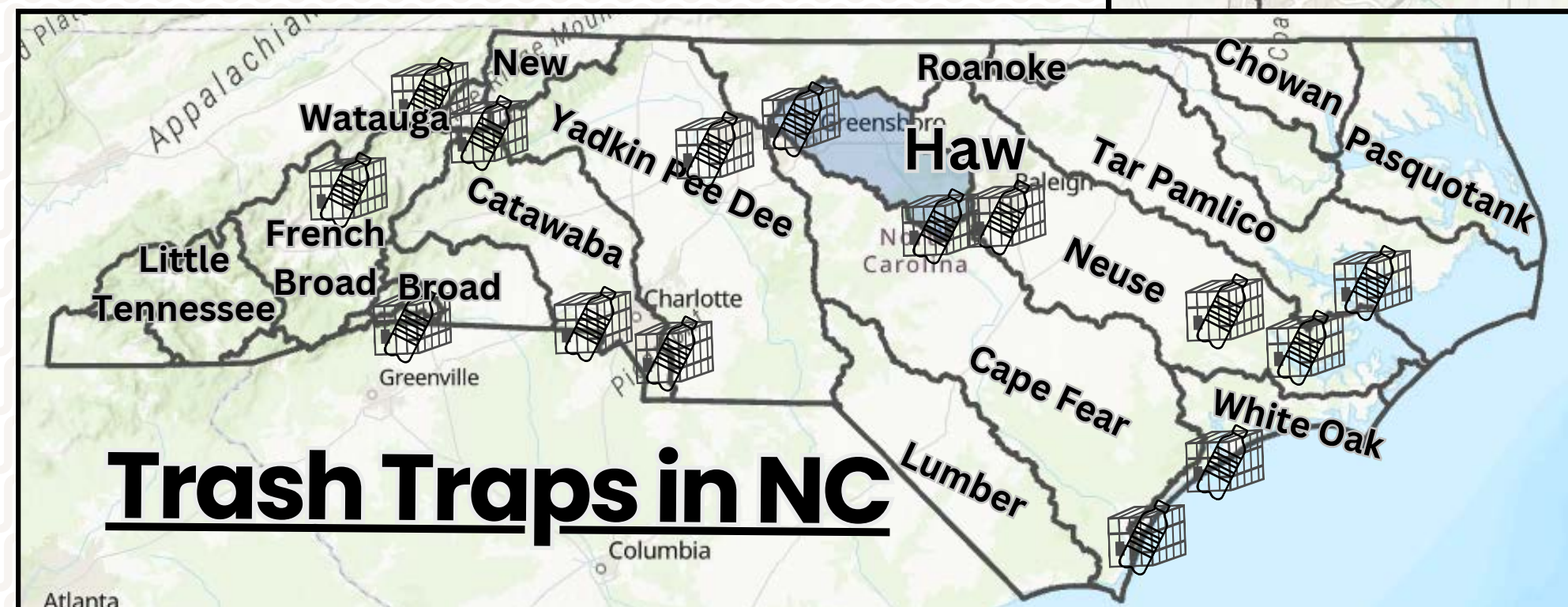
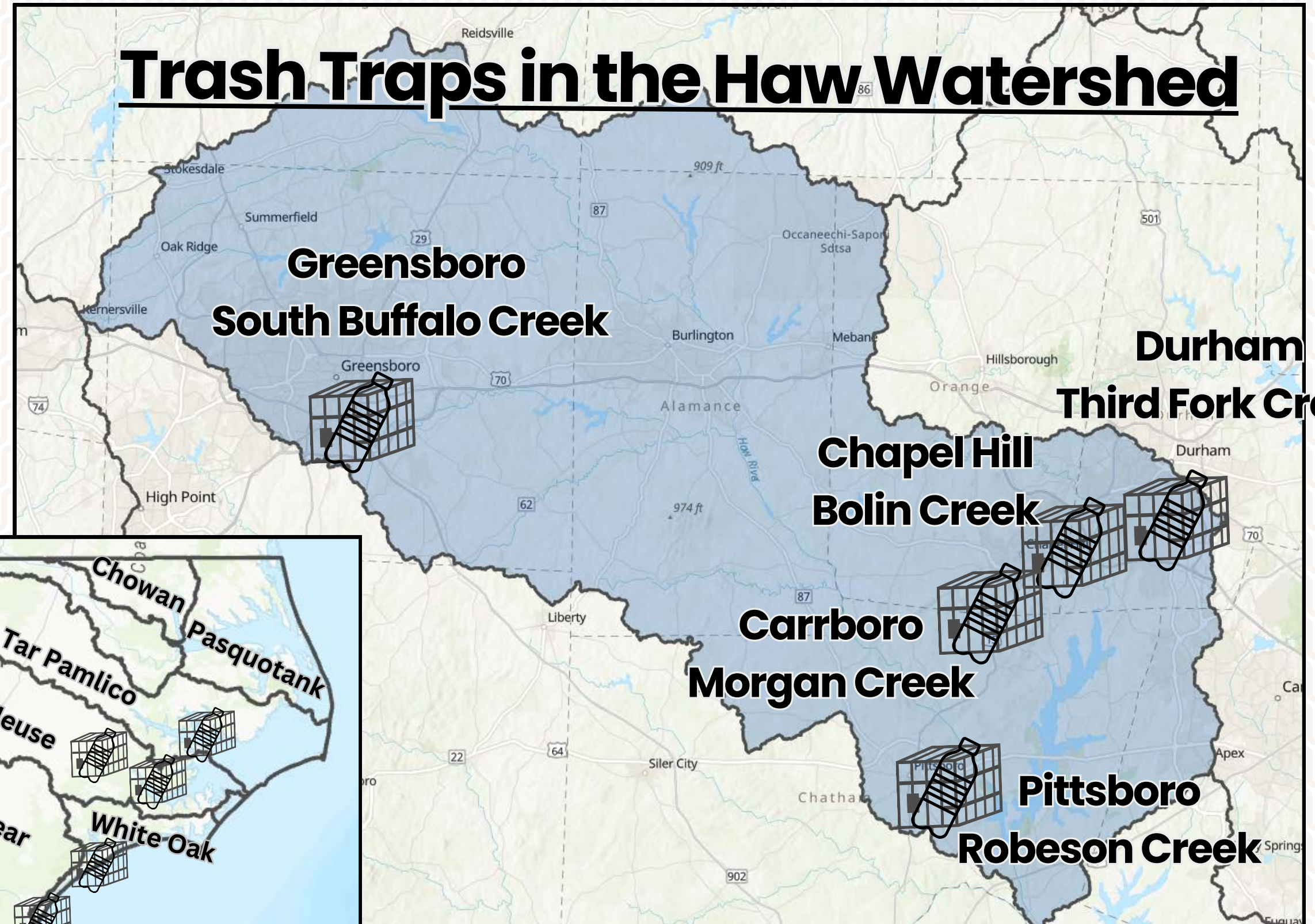




Haw River Assembly Trash Traps

**5 Trash Traps
in the Haw Watershed**

**16 Trash Traps Total
through Waterkeepers Carolina**





Haw River Assembly Trash Traps

Data Collected as of January, 2024

Top 10 Items

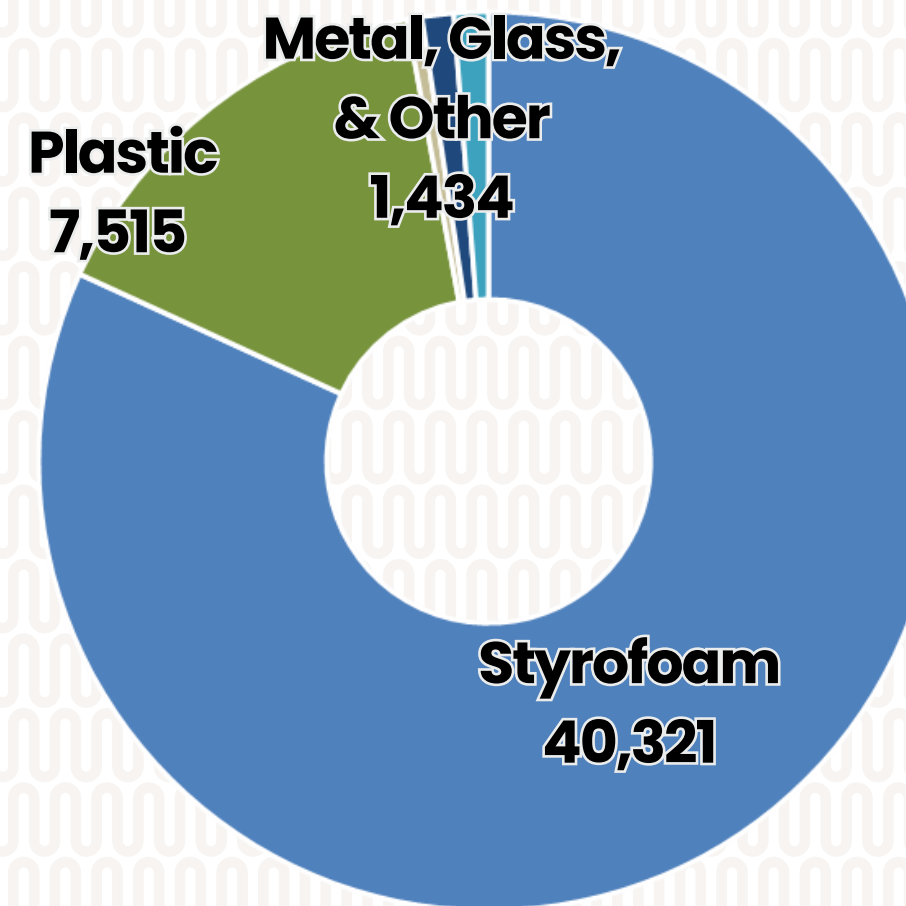
All Haw River Trash Traps



Litter Breakdown

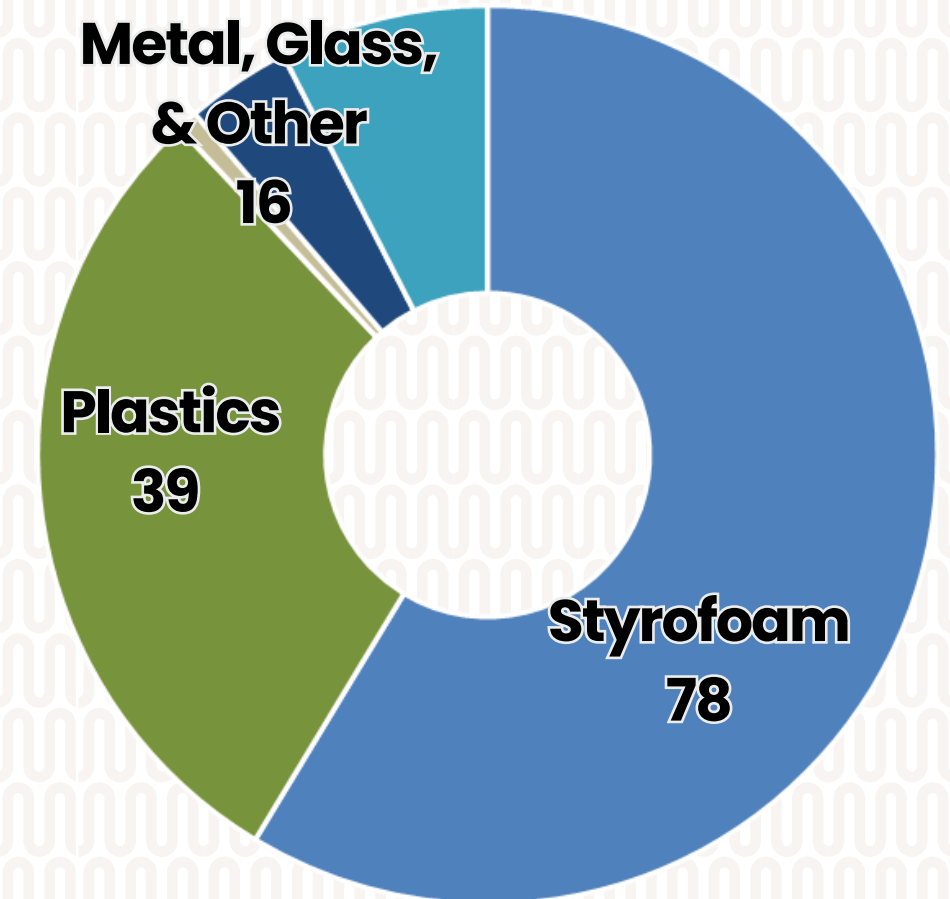
All Haw Trash Traps

40,538 Pieces



Chapel Hill Trash Trap

81 Pieces





What Can Chapel Hill Do?

- Collect data on efforts made for litter reduction to help inform future state policies & make it public!
- Reduce plastic when possible in municipal activities
 - Sediment control measures
 - Construction
- Minimize plastic use in Town Buildings
- Investigate large sources of litter
 - Bus stops? -> Add better/more trash cans!
 - Certain businesses? -> Enforce litter management!





Get Involved! Volunteer With Us!

- Trash Trap Clean Outs
- Stream Restoration Opportunities
- Citizen Science Projects
 - Muddy Water Watch
 - Stream Watch, Macroinvertebrates
 - Trash Trap Data Collection
- Events
 - World Water Day – This Saturday at Umstead Park!
 - Haw River Island Ramble, April 14th
 - Haw River Festival, May 4th
 - Clean-Up-A-Thon, March
 - Learning Celebration, September





Questions?

