



# 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**

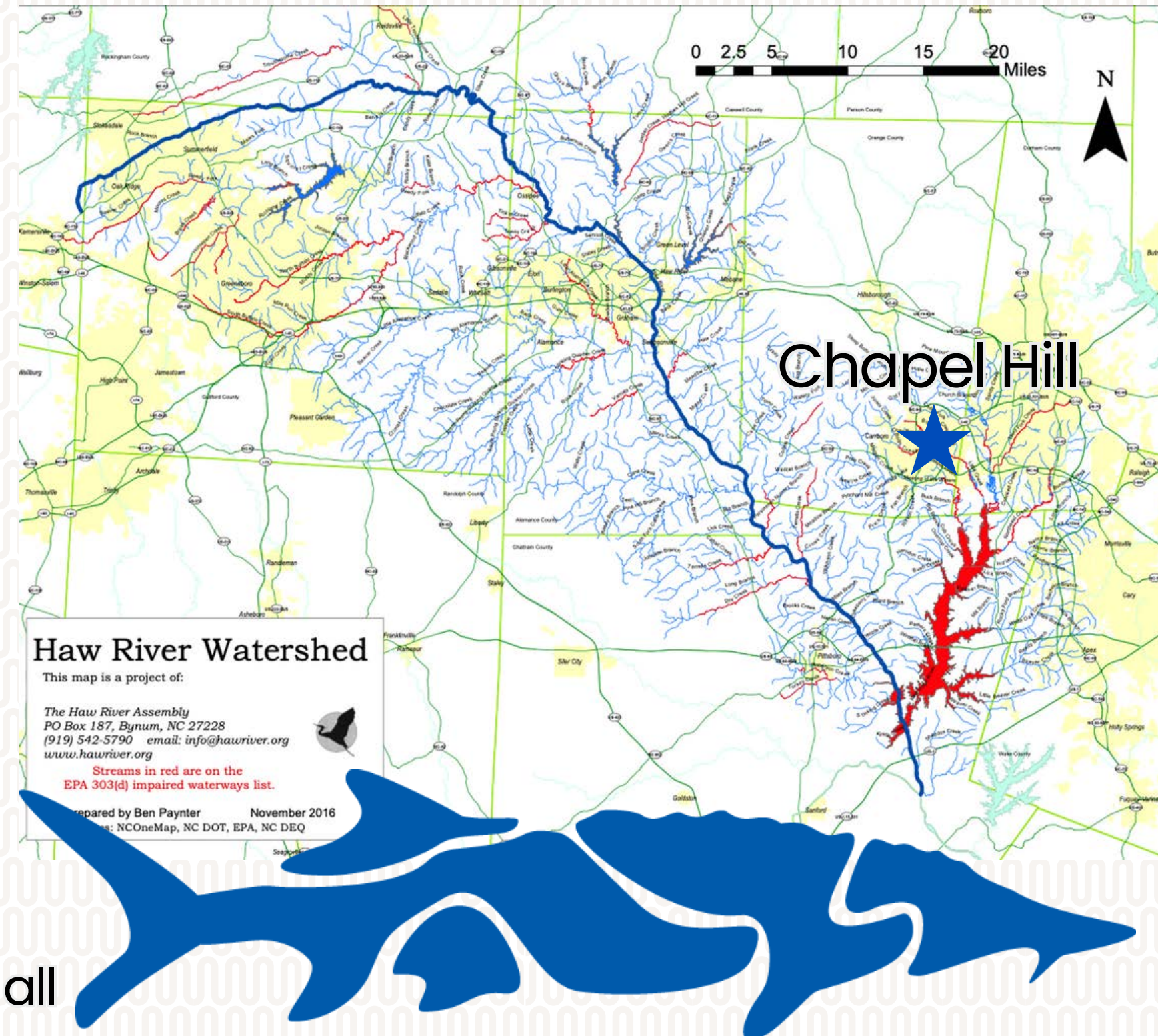






# The Haw River Assembly

- 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



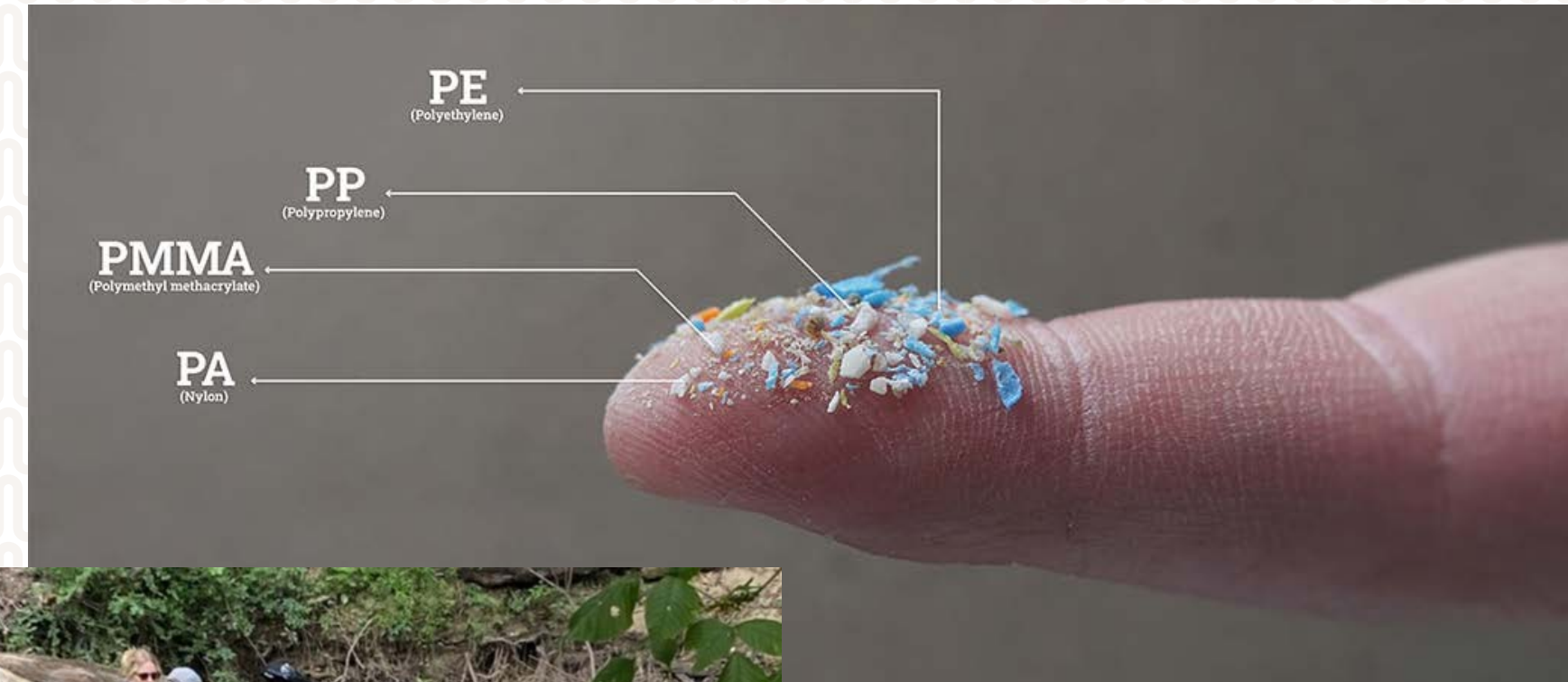
**WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE**





# 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



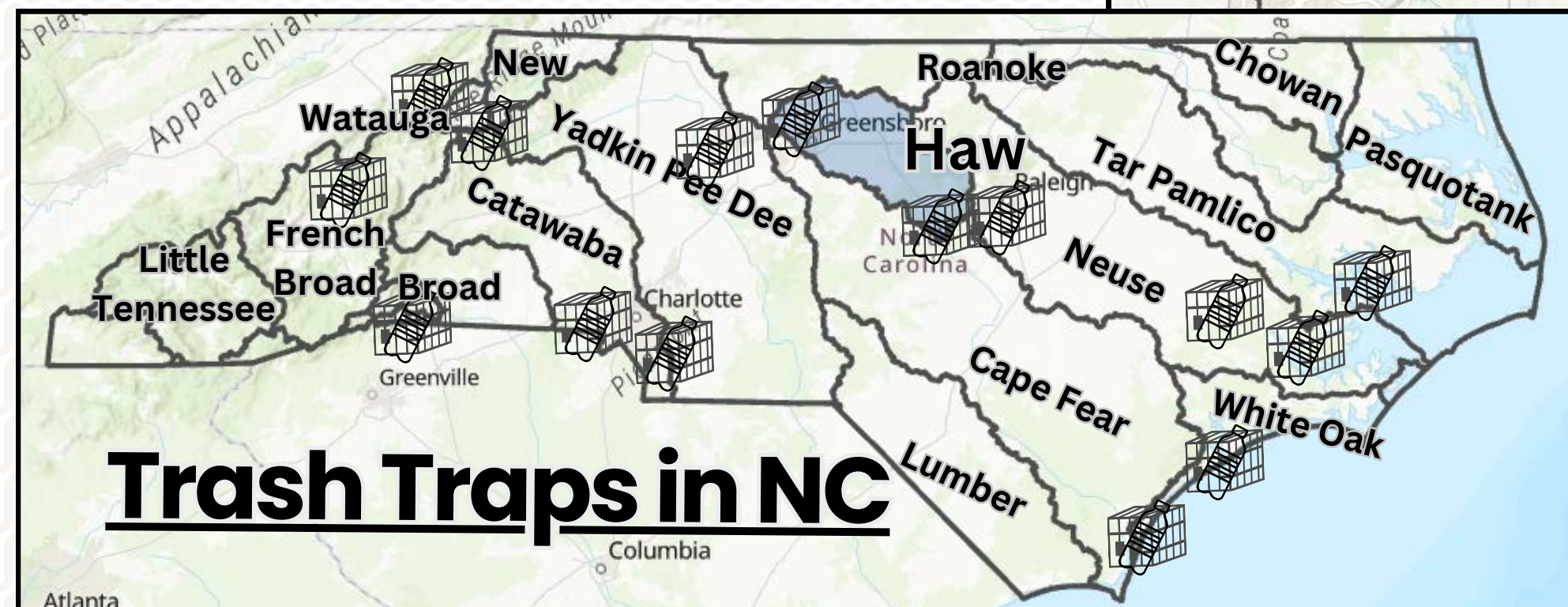
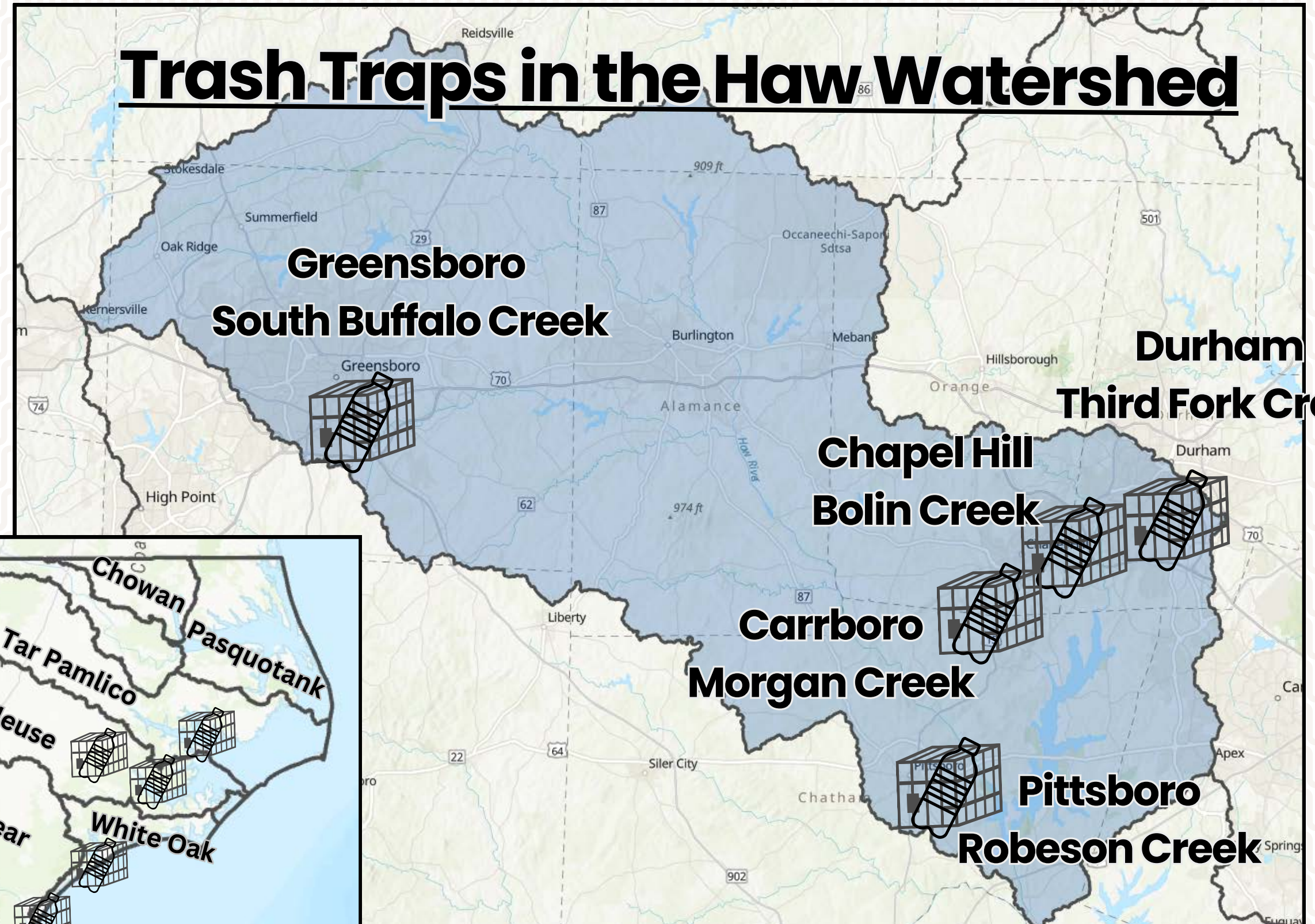




# Haw River Assembly Trash Traps

**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

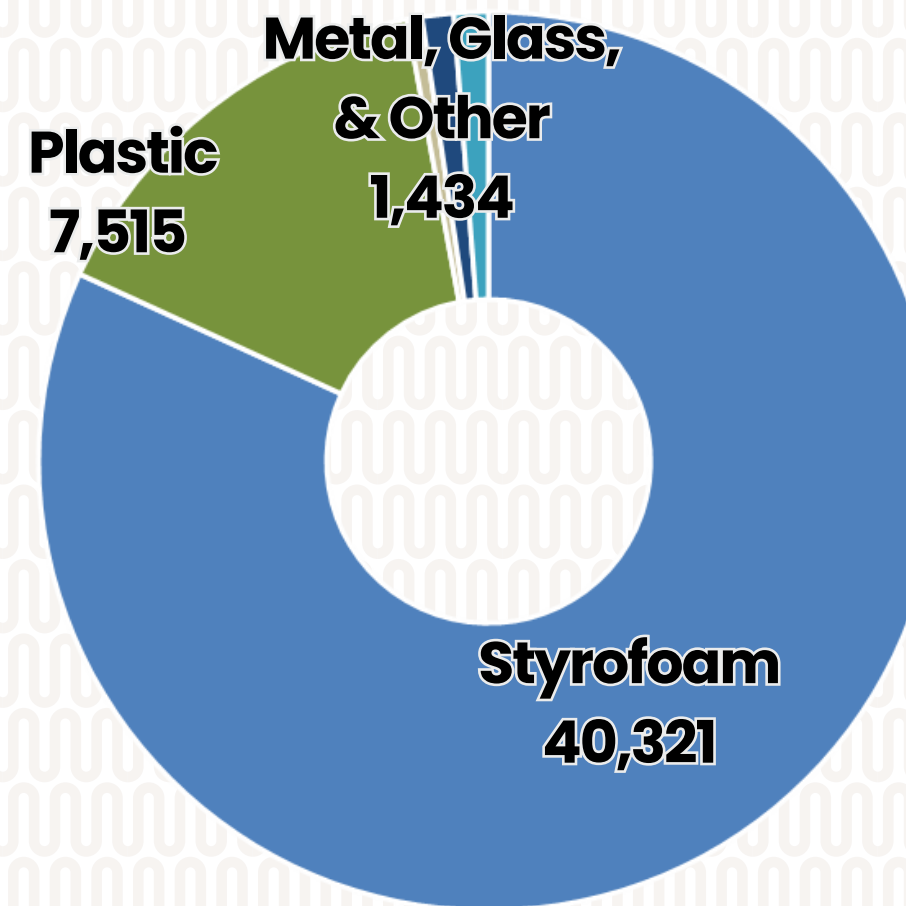
### All Haw River Trash Traps



## Litter Breakdown

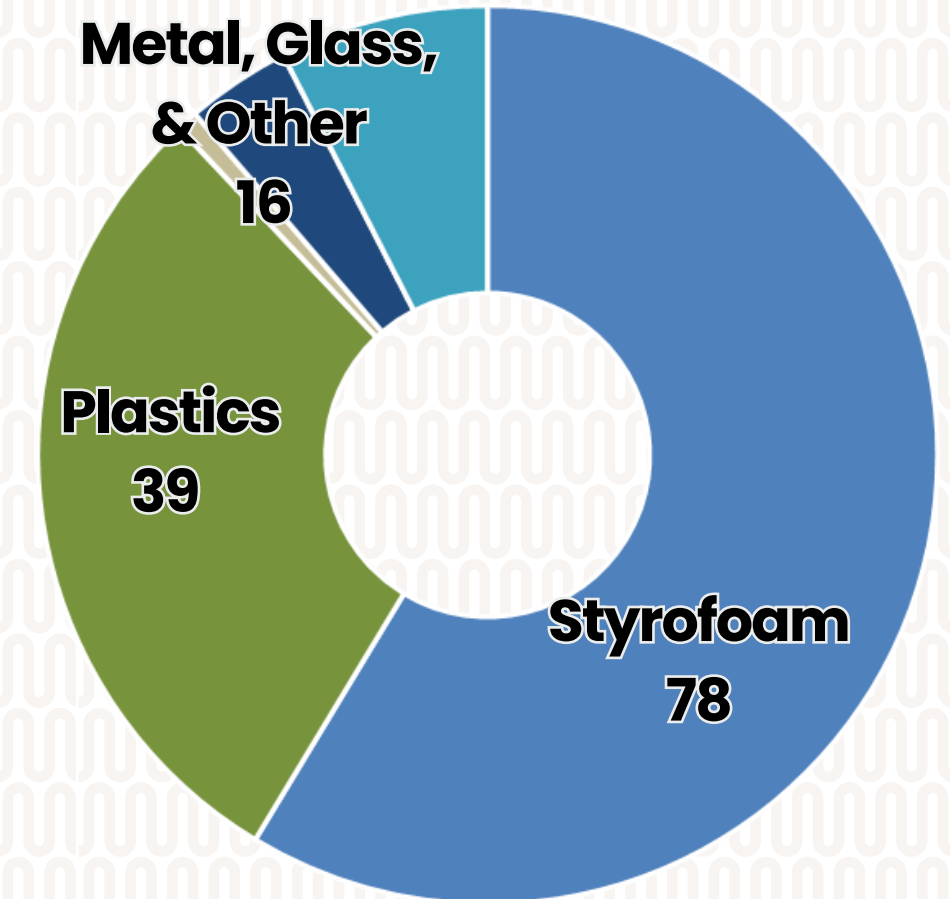
### All Haw Trash Traps

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?

