



H. ROONEY MALCOM AWARD STORMWATER PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

One of the highlights of the Stormwater Management Division Annual Conference is the recognition of a stormwater professional that stands out among their peers for exceptional leadership, innovation, agency service, customer service, community service, and contribution to their profession related to the stormwater field.



2022 recipient of the Stormwater Professional of the Year, **Daryl Hammock**

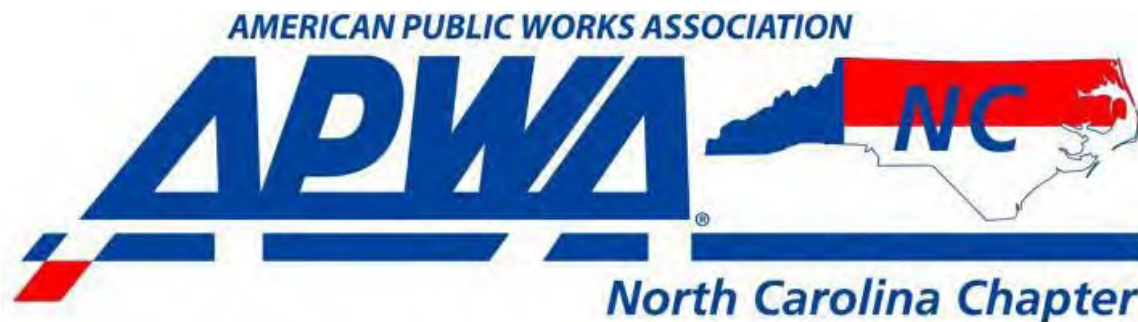
The Stormwater Management Division Board is now accepting nominees from the North Carolina stormwater community for individuals who fit this description.

Please use the enclosed application form to nominate someone that you believe is deserving of this recognition.

The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque and will be honored at this year's Stormwater Management Division Conference.

Previous Winners

2017-John Cox (City of Durham)
2018-Doug Jewell (Jewell LJB)
2019-Annette Lucas (NCDEQ)
2020-Mark Senior (WK Dickson)
2021-Dr. Bill Hunt (NCSU)
2022-Daryl Hammock (City of Charlotte)



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Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Name: Michael Huffman

Job Title: Stormwater Division Manager

Organization and Department: City of Hendersonville, Engineering Department

Address: 305 Williams Street

City (North Carolina): Hendersonville

Daytime Phone Number: 8286973013

Email Address: mhuffman@hvlnc.gov

Nominated By

Name: Brent Detwiler, PE

Job Title: City Engineer

Organization and Department: City of Hendersonville, Engineering Department

Date: 7/5/23

Daytime Phone Number: 8286973060

Email Address: bdetwiler@hvlnc.gov

A brief narrative description (limited to 2 pages, single spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins) must be included with each nomination form describing why the person is being nominated using any of the following criteria: leadership, innovation, agency service, customer service, community service, and contribution to their profession.

Please submit form and narrative to: kelsie.burgess@highpointnc.gov by **July 14, 2023**

QUESTIONS

Contact:

Kelsie Burgess
City of High Point
(336) 883-3819

Michael Huffman, Stormwater Division Manager for the City of Hendersonville, has shown all the qualities and characteristics of the 2023 H. Rooney Malcom Award Stormwater Professional of the Year, including leadership, innovation, service, and contribution to his profession. Mr. Huffman began his career with the City in early 2016, and as the City's various stormwater challenges have evolved over the years, so have his responsibilities and duties. Mike became the City's Stormwater Administrator over five years ago, and then Stormwater Division Manager last year.

Mike has become a leader within the organization and in the community when it comes to stormwater. He was instrumental in moving stormwater to the forefront of the Hendersonville City Council's attention, and as a result, addressing stormwater concerns has been prioritized for our elected officials. With his professional and engaging personality, Mike often presents very technical information to others in a way that is easily understood and enlightening. He managed the growth of the City's stormwater program into a full-fledged utility in less than five years. The City implemented a commercial stormwater fee structure based on equivalent residential units, and Mike spent several years and led many formal and informal work sessions with Council, business groups, and citizen groups to gain trust in the new rate structure and expanded utility. He has taken ownership of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 Stormwater permit and program. Mike constantly improves workflows, using technology to implement efficient measures, and builds relationships with the public and civic organizations to improve water quality in the region. The work Mike has put into the NPDES Phase 2 Stormwater program was acknowledged during an audit by North Carolina Department of Water Quality personnel and led to a Notice of Compliance for the City of Hendersonville.

Mike is an innovative stormwater professional, and he is always striving to improve the ability to enhance stormwater quality utilizing a variety of methods. Mike has applied for and received many grants totaling over \$4 million from the Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina Land and Water Fund, and NC319 over the last seven years. The grants have been used to construct green infrastructure throughout the City, including bioretention swales, rainwater cisterns, rain gardens, and permeable parking areas. Recently, Mike received grant funding to restore Brooklyn Creek within Sullivan Park, a direct investment in an underserved section of the community and an opportunity to work with local stakeholders to improve their neighborhood park. Additionally, in February 2023, Mike was awarded over \$3 million in grant funding for a large floodplain restoration/flood mitigation project. He manages the City's [rain barrel program](#) and other initiatives like [storm drain stamping](#). Mike managed the installation of [four flood sensors throughout the community](#), working with others in the organization to better track and prepare for extreme weather events. One of Mike's major contributions to improving area water quality has been the implementation of the "[Trash Trout](#)" – a public/private partnership that has removed over 10,000 pounds of trash from Mud Creek, Hendersonville's primary watershed. This was the first of its kind in western North Carolina, and there are now over twenty similar installations throughout the region based on Hendersonville's success.

Mike has developed partnerships with many regional agencies and entities. He has frequently collaborated with the North Carolina State University Stormwater Engineering Group staff to

complete training sessions and build community projects. These have included backyard streambank stabilization workshops, as well as the construction of a rainwater cistern at a local free clinic which allows staff and patients to use the water for their community garden. Mike has worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to [reduce streambank erosion areas](#) throughout the community. He has developed a partnership with Henderson County Public Schools and has educated students on the importance of water quality during their Summer Enrichment Program. Mike also annually participates in the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation's "Kids in the Creek" program, looking for aquatic life with students in area streams.

Stormwater management is an important aspect of environmental sustainability. By helping manage stormwater runoff and reducing pollution, Mike has sought to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable development in our community. Hendersonville's Environmental Sustainability Board recently selected Mike to receive the first ever [Hendersonville Sustainability Hero Award](#), recognizing him for championing sustainability practices in Hendersonville and the surrounding community. Mike always provides the highest levels of customer and community service. He often engages with residents and business owners through public meetings and community forums. Mike often [surveys the public and obtained feedback](#) from stakeholders on stormwater issues and concerns. He created and branded the City's '[Stormwater Stroll](#)' as a tool to educate the community on stormwater treatment best practices. Whenever interacting with the community or collaborating organizations, Mike builds relationships and creates positive experiences with lasting impact. Mike has mentored 2 Girl Scouts on their Gold and Silver Awards and 2 Boy Scouts on their Eagle Scout projects, resulting in the installation of a rain garden at an elementary school, educational murals along the City's greenway, a new kayak launch along Mud Creek, and a new Trash Trout Jr. He has also partnered with Asheville Greenworks on their Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP), Journeymen Asheville, and the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County.

Mike consistently contributes to the stormwater profession and helps his regional colleagues in their efforts to meet local challenges. He has provided guidance and recommendations on stormwater program management to stormwater professionals in the Town of Laurel Park, Town of Waynesville, Town of Pembroke, City of Shelby, City of Hickory, and the Land of Sky Regional Council. In 2021 Mike participated in several local government panels detailing his experiences as Hendersonville's Stormwater Administrator for the NC American Public Works Association Stormwater Management Division Conference and the UNC School of Government Stormwater Financing Workshop. In addition, he is active in the Storm Water Association of North Carolina, which informs and shares stormwater best practices across the state.

Mike Huffman is a dedicated leader in the stormwater profession who is always looking for innovative and effective ways to engage and educate the community on the importance of water quality. Mike's passionate dedication to improving stormwater quality has led to all the accomplishments detailed above, and for that reason, Mike deserves to be the 2023 H. Rooney Malcom Award Stormwater Professional of the Year.