

# Stormwater Art Contest Overview

## Town of Fort Mill Stormwater Department

### **Stormwater Introduction**

Stormwater is any water that falls on the ground when it rains or snows. Stormwater runoff is excess rain or snow that does not soak into the ground or become absorbed by trees and plants. Instead, it runs off into storm drainpipes and flows—untreated—into streams. As the water runs over grass, sidewalks and roadways, it picks up pollutants such as oil, fertilizer, pesticides, trash, pet waste and sediment. These pollutants impact the water quality of our local streams, and eventually, the Catawba River and the ocean. In addition, as stormwater increases in volume and speed, it causes stream bank erosion and dumps more sediment into the stream, which harms aquatic insects, fish and animals that depend on the stream for their food and habitat.

### **What are we looking for?**

We are looking for original student artwork that raises awareness about the impact we all have on local streams, rivers and lakes. Designs should reflect topics related to storm drains and the health of local waterways. Students are free to be creative with interpretations of the subject matter. Example topics include water quality, streams, rivers, Lake Wylie, Catawba River, native plants/animals and pollution. Communicating a message is the central point of the art project. Proposed ideas should be tasteful, positive and appropriate for all people in our community. Student artwork may include phrases or slogans, such as “keep it plain, only rain”, “we all live downstream”, “only rain down the storm drain” or other slogans that the student incorporates.

### **Students**

Students should submit artwork between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered for the contest. Art students, environmental club members and all others are encouraged to submit their work. Students do not need to be enrolled in Fort Mill Schools to participate. It is open to all students, K through 12, who reside in Fort Mill and are zoned for Fort Mill schools (this includes students in Tega Cay).

### **Stormwater Art Guidelines**

- The contest goal is to promote the protection of our waterways by educating people about stormwater and should focus on water in streams and rivers as they relate to stormwater runoff and storm drains, not drinking water.
- Student’s interpretations of this may be representational or abstract.
- Students may choose to work as a team on their submissions. Please include the names and contact information of all students involved in a group submission.
- Since the art will be public, it must be appropriate for viewing by all ages.
- Designs will be painted on the sidewalk and somehow run to or incorporate the drain. Designs may not contain advertisement or promotion for any business or product, include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, images of illegal activity, anything harmful to a third party, or involve the attachment of any objects to the storm drain.

- Because the project also aims to deter graffiti vandalism, designs should not mimic or take the style of tags or graffiti.
- Artwork should avoid depicting the storm drain as a mouth. Unfortunately, this has been found to encourage dumping of trash into storm drains in other locations.
- Submitted student artwork will be reviewed by a panel of judges.

**Student Art Submissions must include the following information:**

1. Student(s) Name (first & last), Grade, School Attends, Parent/guardian email and phone number (please do not use student school email addresses)
2. A brief written description of the student’s artwork (200 words or less). This should include a proposed title for the artwork and any relevant information as to how your design addresses stormwater runoff and water quality in Fort Mill.
4. Student artwork should be at least 8” x 12” and no larger than 14” x 22”. Artwork can be submitted physically at Town of Fort Mill Town Hall Annex (200 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill 29715). Digital files can be submitted to [mmacdonald@fortmillsc.gov](mailto:mmacdonald@fortmillsc.gov). Please ensure that your file is saved as a pdf to ensure viewability on all devices.
5. Brief student bio (100 words or less). Tell us about yourself and why this project is important to you!

**Selection of Designs**

A panel will be convened to review the student inspiration artwork. The panel will include Town of Fort Mill employees, local artists and other volunteers. Students whose artwork is selected will be notified by end of February 2025.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place at each school level (elementary, middle, high school). Student art will be displayed online for community wide voting, as well as possibly in person at a Town of Fort Mill event.

**Stormwater Artwork Timeline**

October 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025: Student artwork submissions accepted

January 20256: Committee reviews all submitted student artwork

February 2026: The awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at each school level (lower elementary (k-2), upper elementary (3-5), middle and high) will be announced and contacted.

## **Copyright**

The student further grants the Town of Fort Mill the following exclusive rights:

- Reproduction (including electronic images) for promotion and education purposes
- The right to remove the artwork (or sections of the artwork) from the site for any reason

## **Terms of Agreement**

All artists selected for the Town of Fort Mill Stormwater Art Contest shall agree to the following:

- The work submitted by the artist is original, solely owned by the artist and reproduction will not violate the rights of any third party. Since the artistic designs leading up to and including the final design and dimensions of the artwork are unique, the artist shall not make any additional, exact duplicate reproductions of the final design and dimensions, nor shall the artist grant a third party the right to replicate the artistic designs and dimensions of the artwork without the written permission of the Town of Fort Mill.
- The accepted artwork developed under this contract shall be the exclusive property of the Town of Fort Mill.
- The artist grants the Town of Fort Mill irrevocable license to make reproductions of the artwork and final designs to be used in brochures, media, publicity and catalogs or other promotional items.

## **Indemnity**

The artist agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Fort Mill from any loss or damage, any and all third-party claims, demands, actions, legal fees or costs for which the Artist is legally responsible, including those arising out of negligence, willful harm, or crimes by the Artist or Artist's employees, agents or subcontractors. This 'hold harmless' agreement shall survive beyond the term of the Artist's service contract. The Town of Fort Mill will not be liable for or responsible for any bodily or personal injury or property damage of any nature that may be suffered by the Artist, its employees, agents or subcontractors in the performance of this project, except to the extent of any negligence or misconduct on the part of the Town of Fort Mill.