



## TOWN OF CLAYTON COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 22, 2026**

### **METEOROLOGY EXPERTISE STRENGTHENS CLAYTON'S STORMWATER PLANNING**

CLAYTON, NC – When residents think about the Town of Clayton's Engineering Department, they may picture blueprints, construction drawings, and water pipes. What they may not realize is that the department also relies on science and weather expertise to help protect the community from flooding.

Development Plan Reviewer Andrew Lyons brings a unique perspective to the team with a bachelor's degree in meteorology and a master's degree in biological and agricultural engineering. "Engineering is not just about buildings and roads," said Lyons. "It is about people, science, and planning for the future. I am proud to be part of a team that makes a real difference in our community every day."

Lyons began with the Town as a stormwater intern, gaining hands-on experience with site inspections, sediment basins, and drainage systems. He now reviews development plans for water, sewer, and stormwater. "Every day I work with stormwater, I think about how rainfall interacts with our streets, roofs, and other surfaces," said Lyons. "The way water moves through our Town directly impacts residents' safety and property, so planning for it is critical."

His background in weather science helps him anticipate heavy rainfall and evaluate how stormwater systems perform during intense storms. "We are seeing stronger summer storms that can drop several inches of rain in just an hour," said Lyons. "Our goal is to treat up to a one-inch storm, and we design systems with bypass structures and emergency spillways to help manage flash floods and reduce impacts on homes and roads."

Lyons credits collaboration within the Engineering Department and the Town's Operations teams for continued improvements across Clayton. "We all learn and grow together," he said. "When I see a system in the field, I can suggest stronger designs for new subdivisions. That hands-on experience makes our plan reviews more effective."

He also encourages residents to help protect local waterways. "If you see debris blocking a storm drain or notice something that could harm our streams, speak up," said Lyons. "Our maintenance team can respond quickly, and small actions from the community make a big difference."

The Town of Clayton recognizes staff like Lyons during Engineers Week, which is February 22–28. This annual celebration highlights the dedication of engineers who help the Town strengthen infrastructure, protect the environment, and serve the community.



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Photos 1-4: Development Plan Reviewer Andrew Lyons reviews storm retention pond on Spotted Doe Drive in Clayton subdivision.

Photos 5 & 6: Storm retention pond on Spotted Doe Drive in Clayton subdivision