

- WHAT?** We aim to empower communities to make cost-effective decisions that reduce unnecessary regulations, support smart growth, increase affordable housing, protect natural areas, and improve quality of life.
- WHY?:** Local parking minimums are outdated and costly, limiting development opportunities and negatively impacting community affordability and wellbeing as well as the health of our land, air, and water.
- HOW?:** Support H162 to eliminate burdensome off-street vehicular parking minimum ordinances and clarify parking space width requirements.

WHAT ARE PARKING AND PARKING WIDTH MINIMUMS?

Parking Minimums: ordinances that specify the minimum number of off-street parking spaces required for new developments based on their category and size (e.g., 1 space per 500ft of retail space).

Parking Width Minimums: ordinances that mandate minimum parking space dimensions based on vehicle size and configuration (e.g., standard, compact, angled), typically 8-10ft wide and 18-20ft long.

WHY ARE PARKING MINIMUMS HARMFUL?

Parking minimum ordinances are expensive for everyone!

- Minimums impose costs and space allocation on developers and business owners, increasing expenses and limiting opportunities.
- Added development and maintenance costs are often passed on to consumers through higher prices for goods, services, or rent.
- The space required for parking fragments walkable, tight-knit communities, contributing to urban sprawl and car dependence.
- Excess parking harms natural areas by increasing impervious surface area, which raises flood risk, generates heat, worsens air and water quality, and destroys habitat.

WHY IS H162 IMPORTANT?

Parking has shaped our communities and way of life by prioritizing cars over people. As North Carolina grows, parking reform is key to responsibly boosting business, affordable goods and housing, public transit and walkability, and health of natural areas for the future.

WHAT DOES H162 DO?

H162 breaks the cycle of blindly repeating outdated, costly parking requirements without evaluating their impact. By nullifying and outlawing vehicular parking minimums and clarifying vehicular parking width requirements, H162 reinstates market-based decisions, fostering new business opportunities, reducing urban sprawl, cutting administrative burdens, and minimizing impervious surface area to reduce flooding and protect natural areas.

FAST FACT!

A surface parking space costs \$5,000 to \$10,000 to build. A parking garage space costs \$25,000 to \$50,000 to build (Source: Strong Towns).



Feed and Folly before and after Fayetteville, AR banned parking minimums. With parking minimums instated, the project would have fallen 30 spaces short of the parking requirement.

DID YOU KNOW?

In August 2021, Gastonia, NC removed parking minimums, joining over 50 other US cities and towns where such changes have spurred new businesses and revitalized vacant buildings.

- WHAT?** We aim to empower local communities to reduce the volume and velocity of floodwater and runoff before it reaches local waterways where it damages property and infrastructure.
- WHY?:** Many buildings in NC predate our awareness of the relationship between runoff and flooding. Addressing runoff during redevelopment reduces flooding in downstream areas.
- HOW?:** Support H162 to empower local governments to address runoff during the redevelopment process.

WHAT IS RUNOFF?

In natural areas, soil and plants absorb rainfall. However, impervious surfaces like roofs and parking lots prevent this process, causing water to run off into nearby waterways. This excess water is called runoff.

As it flows over impervious surfaces, runoff collects trash, motor oil, fertilizer, and other harmful pollutants. Unlike water that goes down the sink or toilet, runoff in most areas is not treated before it reaches these waterways. In NC, runoff is the leading source of water pollution.

WHY IS RUNOFF HARMFUL?

Following a rain event, runoff rushes into nearby streams at unnaturally high volumes and speeds, carrying pollutants with it.

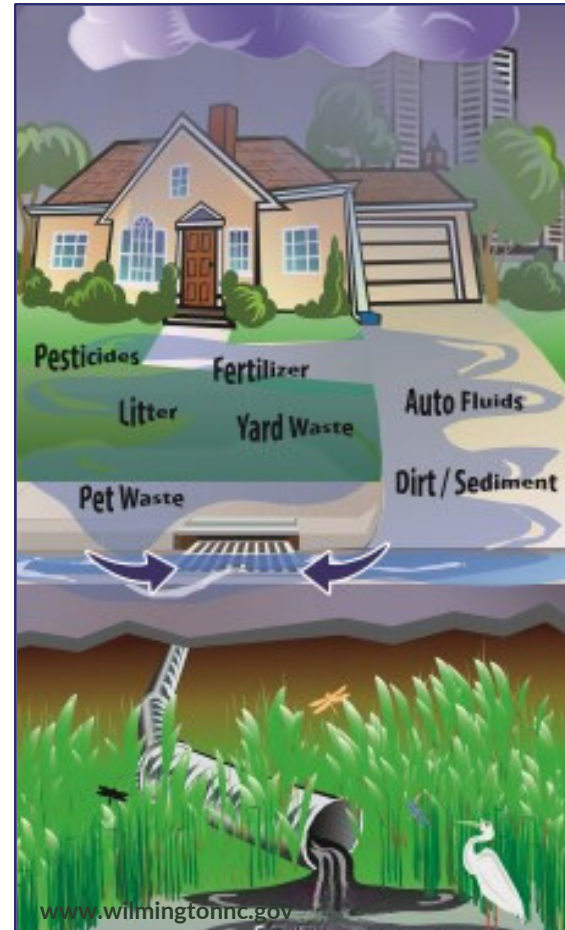
- **Flooding:** Excess water entering streams causes rapid flooding of nearby waterways and downstream properties and businesses.
- **Erosion:** Fast-flowing water erodes stream banks, damaging property, disrupting aquatic habitats, and increasing flood risk.
- **Pollution:** Pollutants deposited into streams degrade water quality, harm aquatic species, and raise water treatment costs.

WHY IS H162 IMPORTANT?

Redeveloping unused or underused buildings, many of which predate current best management practices for runoff management, is crucial to North Carolina's growth. Under current law, communities can not require or incentive runoff controls on an redevelopment site. This restriction hampers local efforts to reduce flooding and destruction in downstream areas. In order to continue to grow, we must reduce our flood risk by addressing runoff during the redevelopment process.

WHAT DOES H162 DO?

H162 empowers local communities to incentivize the capture of runoff from preexisting development during the redevelopment process in order to balance strategic business growth with the protection of our waters and communities.



DID YOU KNOW?

1 inch of rain on 1 acre of impervious surface generates 27,000 gallons of runoff! The same amount of rain on an acre of forest produces 0 gallons of runoff. This difference has dramatic impacts on our streams, rivers, lakes, and communities.