

Protecting the Watershed

Maintaining water quality is critical for the continued growth and health of Wake County. Protecting the watershed or land that drains directly in the river is vital. Many pollution sources contribute to poor watershed quality. Impervious surfaces pose the greatest hazard. Surfaces that are built upon limit infiltration of water into the ground and result in polluted stormwater run-off.

As development intensifies, the quantity of contaminated run-off flowing directly into the water supply increases. Watershed protection polices are in place, however more are needed to guide development of land in the watershed. The Little River Workgroup was formed in May of 2006 to recommend an integrated protection strategy.

Fast Facts

21,801

approximate acres of the Little River Watershed in Wake County

17

million gallons per day is the potential usage for the reservoir

Ways to Learn More

1. **Attend Public Meetings.** All public community meetings will be held from 4-7pm.

October 29, 2007: Zebulon

Remaining Meetings:

November 6, 2007

Wendell Community Center
601 W. Third St.
Wendell, NC 27591

November 13, 2007

Rolesville Fire Department
104 E. Young Street
Rolesville, NC 27571

November 15, 2007

Wake Forest Town Hall
401 Elm Ave.
Wake Forest, NC 27857

2. **Visit Our Website.** Additional information on Little River can be found on our website at www.wakegov.com/planning
3. **Contact us.** Wake County Planning staff are happy to answer your questions about the Little River Reservoir. **For more information contact us at (919) 664-5593 or via email at littleriver@co.wake.nc.us.**



Wake County Planning Department
P.O. Box 550
Raleigh, NC 27602
Phone (919)-856-6310
Fax (919) 856-6184

The Little River Reservoir Water Supply Watershed

Inter-local Agreement Implementation Process



Wake County Planning Department
Fall 2007

Welcome

Little River and its forthcoming reservoir have been identified by the state as a pristine source of future water supply for Eastern Wake County. Our future water supply is a common concern that crosses municipal boundaries.

Representatives from Raleigh, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon, and Wake County formed the Little River Watershed Protection Workgroup (LRWG) to work cooperatively on the issue. The LRWG is hosting community meetings to share information on the process.

Public Information & Meetings

All property owners within or adjacent to the critical area are invited to attend community meetings. The Wake County Planning Department and our municipal partners would like you to be informed about planning issues and have prepared opportunities for you to learn more.

Please see the back cover for contact information and meeting locations.

The Little River Reservoir ILA Process

The 2006 Inaugural Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Future of Wake County recommended acceleration of the Little River Reservoir ahead of the planned 2025 date. A portion of the pre-construction process is protecting the river through an inter-local watershed protection agreement (ILA). Several steps are required to begin working on the reservoir.

Step 1: Inter-local Agreement (ILA)

The Little River Workgroup has developed an ILA that addresses annexation, urban service boundaries, zoning, and water/sewer services in the Little River Watershed. Provisions outlined in the ILA will guide further land use and zoning changes in the watershed.

Step 2: Wake County Land Use Plans

If approved, the ILA provisions would require amending the Wake County and the Northeast Area Land Use Plans. Community meetings will share information on the implementation strategies of the ILA, including lowering densities in the critical area. Environmentally sensitive areas, like the watershed, need additional density and development controls to protect the water supply from pollutants.

Land Use Provisions

- Allow non-residential development in non-urban activity centers only
- Prohibit future annexations into critical and non-critical areas
- Add reservoir tributaries to the County's open space acquisition priority list
- **Reduce maximum densities in the Critical Area**
From
 1 dwelling unit/ 2 acres
To
 1 dwelling unit/ 3 acres
 (applicable to *new or expanding* properties only)

UDO Provisions

- Create zoning overlay district for the watershed
 - Prohibit development in the 100-year floodplain
 - Protect 100-foot wide undisturbed stream buffers
 - Maintain impervious surface limits of 6% in critical area and 12% in non-critical
 - No water and sewer line extension in critical and non-critical areas
- **Change Critical Area R-80W to R-120W zoning**
 R-80W = 1 dwelling unit/ 2 acres
 R-120W = 1 dwelling unit/ 3 acres
 (applicable to *new or expanding* properties only)

Step 3: The Unified Development Ordinance

ILA recommendations would also affect policies in the Unified Development Ordinance. The three acre minimum lot size provision would require rezoning all R-80W properties to R-120W.

The R-120W Recommendation

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has designated the watershed as a WS-II, one of the most restrictive and pristine classifications. The recommendation for an R-120W zoning district is designed to ensure the quality of WS-II public drinking water supply watersheds, such as the Little River Watershed. It is appropriate only in the critical areas of such watershed.

The R-120W district allows very low-density residential development in the form of single-family detached dwellings and duplexes. A limited number of nonresidential uses are also allowed, but generally only if the Wake County Board of Adjustment first reviews and approves a site plan and special use permit for such use.

