



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

2008-2012

Long Range Strategic Plan



Continuing to protect Wake County's Natural Resources

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Introduction

For seventy years our nation's Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been on a complex and direct mission to positively impact the care and management of private lands. Since the Dust Bowl era a charge has been given to these locally led organizations to assist landowners in applying best management practices to achieve goals of conserving land, water and related resources for everyone.

Since 1965 Wake Soil and Water Conservation District workload has transformed from a small one field, one stream, one forest, one landowner operation into an organized comprehensive organization that manages whole farms, forest, watersheds and stream basins while still providing personal customer service to each landowner.

As the Wake District continues to transform with new technology and new approaches to protecting our natural resources we know that our strength still resides in personal action of the landowners. We will continue to develop innovative relationships with our present and new partners. Through locally led governing agencies, private and public technical experts, and local communities we will best apply our resources.

This five year strategic plan is a guide to the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff as we continue to protect and enhance the natural resources of Wake County's watersheds. The plan supports the goals of the Wake County Board of Commissioners focus areas, the Wake County Environmental Stewardship Agenda, the Wake County Environmental Services Department goals, the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation mission, and the business plan for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – North Carolina.

The Strategy Plan operates under the current Memorandum of Understanding between Wake Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NCDENR Division of Soil and Water Conservation, and the County of Wake.

Using a watershed management approach:

Our Mission

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to conserve the soil, water and related natural resources of Wake County by providing education, information, technical assistance and economic incentives to county citizens and establish new programs in concert with other appropriate agencies and organizations to meet changing needs.

Guiding Principles of the Strategic Plan

Vision

We will be Wake County's recognized leader in natural resources management and serve as a catalyst for clean and abundant water.

Principles

Watershed Management

We will promote the management of our natural resources through a comprehensive watershed planning approach.

Expertise in Sustaining Working Lands

We will provide scientific and technical expertise to protect water quality, preserve biodiversity, and support private working lands.

Resources

We will acquire adequate resources through partnering, collaboration, and organizational strengthening.

Environmental Stewardship

We will engage citizens through creative education and outreach to foster environmental stewardship practices in daily activities.

Leadership in a Changing Environment

We will continue to provide innovative leadership in natural resources management in Wake County's changing environment.

Goals and Objectives

Principle 1: Watershed Management



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District will manage natural resources through a comprehensive watershed planning approach.

Outcomes: Enhance, restore, and protect the natural resources in each priority watershed. Wake County citizens become active in the decisions to protect and steward their community watersheds.

Action:

- Analyze GIS, biological, air, soil, and water quality data from existing sources
- Set priority areas for sub-basin work
- Collect additional data needed to make assessments
- Determine needs of landowners
- Determine needs of local governing agencies
- Involve the community in active planning and implementing active projects
- Develop database that will facilitate the collection and management of data

Evaluation:

- Streams quality improved based on data and resources
- Biological data (macro-invertebrates counts improve on priority streams)
- Public involved and active in watershed protection
- Ability to show results through collected and recorded data

Principle 2: Expertise in Sustaining Working Lands



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District will provide scientific and technical expertise to protect water quality, preserve biodiversity, and support private working lands.

Outcomes: Clean air, protected wildlife habitat and biodiversity, preserved scenic areas, viewsapes, protected watersheds, protected prime farm soils.

Wake County citizens retain permanent preserved open space acreages with diversified ecosystems. Increase stable income earning working lands that are environmentally managed.

Action:

- Identify parcels with multiple characteristics ideal for preservation (natural resource concerns, stream location, size of parcel, cultural heritage, and landowner interest).
- Acquire conservation easements
- Establish Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD)
- Develop plans for District to hold easements
- Promote existing Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) and Farmland Protection Program
- Provide a new source for farmers and niche marketing
- Partner with private and non-profit agencies to preserve open space

Evaluation:

- Number of parcels with permanent deed easements increased.
- Number of parcels with 10 year, 15 year, & 30 year easements increased
- Landowners bringing income into County through working lands and Agribusinesses increase.
- Enrollment in VADs and EVADs increase

Principle 3: Resources



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District will acquire adequate resources through partnering, collaboration, and organizational strengthening.

Outcomes: A sustained and established budget that meets the operational needs of the office in order to accomplish the goals. Cultivate a respected and valued relationship with Wake County Board of Commissioners, Wake County Department of Environmental Services, NC DENR Division of Soil and Water, and other granting agencies.

Action:

- Help implement the BOC's Goals and Strategic Plans and their focus areas.
- Provide BOC, DES, Division and others with output data to support work effort and accomplishments
- Work with partners to find alternative funding sources
- Search for sponsors in business community
- Increase public awareness of District's name and purpose
- Increase on site activities and involvement with Board of Supervisors, Board of Commissioners and staff

Evaluation:

- Adequate budgets and funding appropriated on a recurring basis
- Partners continue to invest time and resources in District projects
- Resources are dedicated to staff training and professional development
- District recognized as dependable service provider

Principle 4: Environmental Stewardship



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District will engage citizens through creative education and outreach to foster environmental stewardship practices in daily activities.

Outcomes: Healthy watersheds are produced by concerned citizens of Wake County who are aware of environmental issues, have developed an ethic of environmental stewardship, and are active in enhancing and protecting their natural surroundings.

Action:

- Continue to educate adults and children on environmental issues
- Provide training through various methods and forums to reach the population
- Remain connected to school system (public and private) by providing environmental materials in updated usable format they can easily use.
- Provide venues for community interaction in environmental stewardship
- Recruit volunteers

Evaluation:

- Wake County citizens understand the importance of protection of natural resources
- Wake County citizens are aware of their impact in their own watershed and know how to change their behavior
- Educators seek the District for assistance in Environmental Curriculum
- We work with partners, local governments, businesses and non-profits to develop environmental stewardship trainings and workshops

Principle 5: Leadership in a Changing Environment



Wake Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to provide innovative leadership in natural resources management in Wake County's changing environment.

Outcomes: Through research and development Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board and Staff will be among the most active, educated, informed, and skilled team in locally led environmental work. An experienced and well-trained staff will utilize the newest technology and creative concepts in managing our watersheds for a healthy environment. Active and informed Board of Supervisors will lead and guide other officials in supporting a stewardship ethic for Wake County citizens.

Action:

- Board will network with field experts and policy maker
- Staff will attend trainings and implement practices of latest technological advances in data collection, installation of BMPs, biological information, and reporting results
- Develop strategic alliances
- Develop a business/entrepreneurial approach in operation and organization of the District
- Evaluate staff and Board's strengths and talents and recruit Associate Board members and volunteers to enhance existing talents

Evaluation:

- Wake County citizens seek the District when confronted with local environmental issues
- Citizens, local governing groups, partners, and educators depend on the District to provide reliable information as well as innovative solutions to problems
- Board of Commissioners seek an active and involved District Board to help implement their work goals and focus areas for Environmental Stewardship Educated citizen and maintaining quality of life

Appendix

Acronyms

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District	Wake District, District, Wake SWCD
Geographical Information System	GIS
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources	NC DENR
Division of Soil and Water Conservation	Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS
Wake County Board of Commissioners	BOC
Wake County Department of Environmental Services	DES
Wake County	WC
Voluntary Agricultural Districts	VAD
Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts	EVAD
Example of Partners	Partners
North Carolina State University	
Triangle Land Conservancy	
Open Space and Parks and Recreation	
Cooperative Extension Service	
USDA - Farm Service Agency	
Farm Credit	
WRAL-TV 5	
North Carolina Forest Service	
Corps of Engineers	
Example of Local governing agency	
City of Raleigh	
Town of Apex	
Town of Zebulon	
Other Soil and Water Conservation Districts	
Council of Governments	

Contact Information

Current as of October 2007

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

Donnie Woodlief, Chair Board of Supervisors
4001 D Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610

919-250-1050
919-250-1058 Fax

www.wakegov.com Click on Environmental Services, Soil and Water Conservation

Board of Supervisors

Donnie Woodlief, Chair
Marcia Lieber, Vice Chair
John Phelps, Secretary-Treasurer
Thomas Dean, Member
Joy Elliot, Member

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Raleigh Field Office
Matthew Kinane, District Conservationist
4001 D Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-250-1070

Wake County Environment Services Department

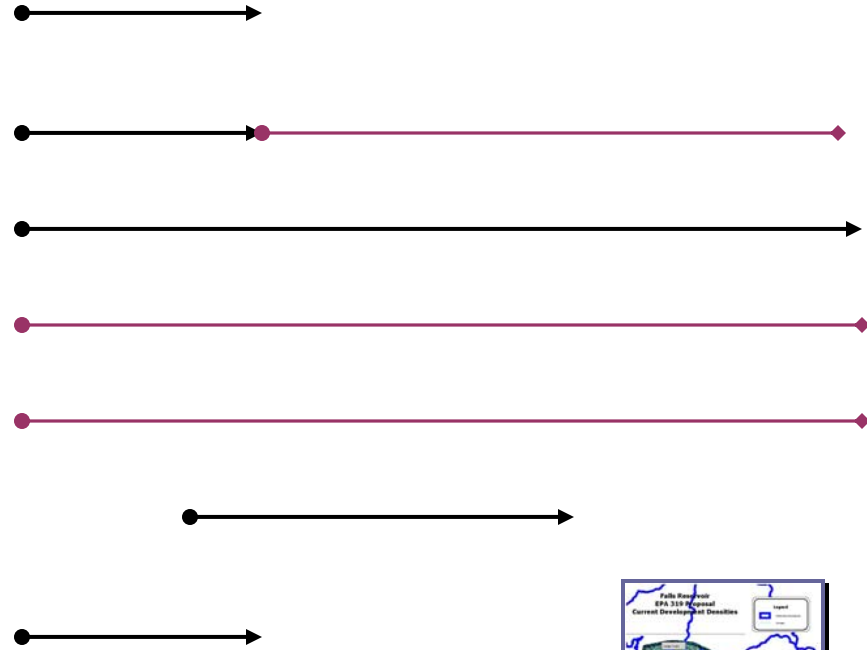
Water Quality - Soil and Water Section
Britt Stoddard, District Administrator
Wake County Office Building
PO Box 550
Raleigh, NC 27602
919-856-2641

ACTION PLAN ITEMS TIMELINE

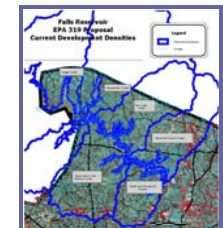
Watershed Management

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2008 2009 2010 2011 2012



The Mitchell Mill State Natural Area
Located in the Little River Watershed



● ————— ◆ *Item is ongoing based on the needs of community, partners and current environmental issues*

2008

2009

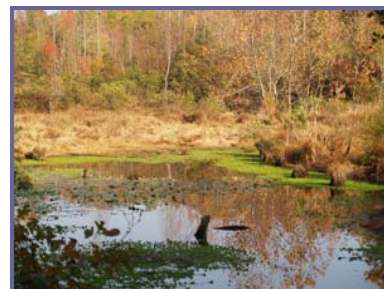
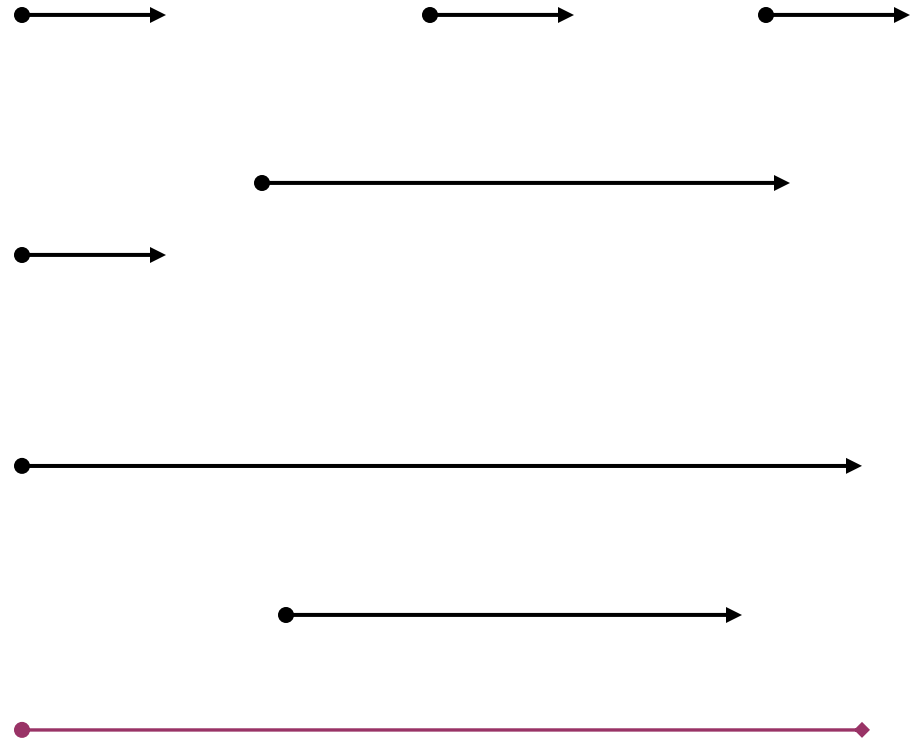
2010

2011

2012

Expertise in Sustaining Working Lands

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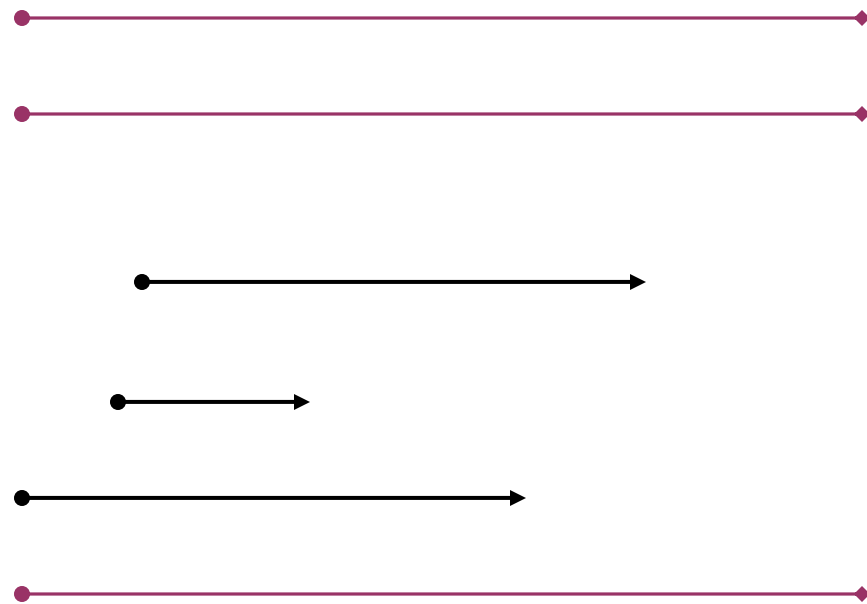
Marks Creek

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District supports the Marks Creek Rural Lands Initiative

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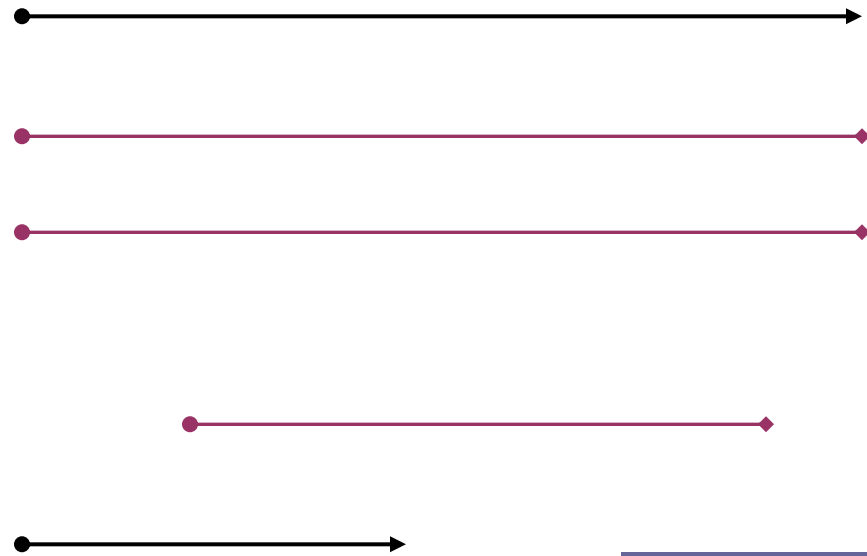
2010

2011

2012

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