

Open Space makes Wake County an attractive and viable place to live, work, and play.

What is Open Space?

Open Space is protected lands that are owned and managed in the public interest for the following purposes:

- Protection of good water quality
- Preservation of natural resources
- Managed production of resources (forest and farmland)
- Preservation of historic and cultural property
- Protection of scenic landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protection of public health, safety, and welfare

“Investing in Open Space is important because protecting the past molds the future and gives us roots from which we will never deviate.”

-Wake County farm owner

Benefits of Open Space

- Protects clean water supply
- Filters air pollution
- Protects scenic landscapes that attract tourists
- Preserves endangered agricultural lands
- Protects greenspace for future community parks
- Attracts homeowners and businesses
- Absorbs flood waters

From Year 2000 through 2005, more than 3,000 acres of land in Wake County have been protected by the Open Space program.

77% of Wake County voters approved a second bond referendum for Open Space in November 2004.

Population growth is causing the conversion of more than 1 acre per hour or 27 acres per day from open space to suburban development in Wake County.

Land Protection

The Open Space Program protects land as open space in two primary ways:

- Wake County purchases parcels of land and conservation easements in targeted conservation areas. (A conservation easement is a legal agreement that permanently protects a piece of land from commercial or residential development).
- Wake County awards matching funds to partnering organizations so they can purchase land and conservation easements to further their open space goals.



Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Wake County Consolidated Open Space Program
www.wakegov.com/openspace

Wake County Board of Commissioners

Tony Gurley, Chair
Harold Webb, Vice-Chair
Joe Bryan
Herb Council
Kenn Gardner
Phil Jeffreys
Betty Lou Ward

For more information, contact:


Kurt Smith, Open Space Planner, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, kwsmith@co.wake.nc.us (919)856-6555



Partnerships

Partnerships are key to the Open Space Program's success. Wake County has worked closely with the following partners to protect Open Space:

- Triangle Land Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- Local municipalities: Raleigh, Cary, Apex, Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon
- NC Division of Forest Resources
- NC State Parks
- NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund
- NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program
- Numerous private individuals



*"Twenty-five thousand people
move to Wake County each year.
Preserving open space is critical
to ensuring water quality and
protecting natural beauty."
-Commissioner Tony Gurley*



Wake County's Consolidated Open Space Program

Today's Partnerships for Tomorrow's Preservation