



# Wake Soil and Water Conservation District



## Work Plan for FY 2010

### **Board of Supervisors**

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# Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

## Work Plan FY 2010

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District 2009-2010 year will be the most extensive “make over” the District has ever seen. We will address Wake County’s changing demographics, land uses and available technology for a progressive and modern Soil and Water Conservation District. The commitment to change has been embraced by the Board of Supervisors, staff, the engaged citizens and District’s Advisory Group.

The result of the past transitional year is an energized District, charged and directed to return to its leadership role mandated by state statute (G.S.139-8). The District will utilize its core assets - combining partnership collaboration and technical expertise to address current and future environmental issues in Wake County and all connected watersheds.

*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 residents and establish new programs in concert with other organizations to meet the changing needs.*

### For FY2010 and Beyond

**Wake Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to a role of leadership promoting a healthy community through environmental, social and economic sustainability for present and future generations of Wake County residents.**

**Wake Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Work Goals  
FY 2010**

Although the District work goals appear to be part of the new “green” movement, in actuality they are a continuation of our science foundation, statute authority, and of our greatest asset: voluntary and successful working relationships.

***In other words, we are doing what comes naturally.***

**Goal 1: Address Immediate Environmental Issues with Deliverable Services and Solutions**

- Provide planning, design, financial assistance, if available, and technical support to improve local watersheds
  - Address **agronomic** resource concerns and provide solutions
  - Identify and address **urban stormwater runoff** in communities to improve urban ecosystems
  - Convert acreage on vacant lands to forest to improve air quality, sequester carbon and support local “cool” green initiatives

<b>Status</b>	<b>Example of Work</b>	<b>Priority per Board of Supervisors</b>	<b>Est. Workload</b>
<b>Current Workload</b>	Implementation of ongoing conservation plans Completing current conservation contracts Finalizing agreements on urban community conservation projects Design and plan for conservation components in Falls Lake EPA 319 project	High	1.5 FTE
<b>New Work Initiatives</b>	Write and implement new conservation plans Implement new and current contracts Write new urban community conservation plans and contracts on Open Space assessments Forestry and cropland conversion projects	High	1.3 FTE
<b>Dropped Work</b>	Stream assessments Stream monitoring Small watershed plan evaluation Select watershed sampling and reporting Clerical Assistance to support technical staff	-	-0.8 FTE

**Benefits/Outcome of Goal 1: Direct impact and improvement on environmental nonpoint source problem.**

Benefit	Supports Board of Commissioners 2009 Work Goals	Workload
Residents receive tangible and valuable solutions for natural resource concerns	III 5	15 contracts written 500 acres in plans
Streams have reduced sediment and nutrient load	13, III	15 contracts implemented 500 acres applied
Protected water supply and quantity for future of Wake County residents	III	Work with 2 municipalities on storm water projects
Wildlife habitat improved in areas that can ecologically support their communities	III	Prioritized work in 7 impacted watersheds
Cleaner air and increased oxygen due to increase in forest acres and improved management	13, III	Plan and install 100 acres of new forest lands



"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."

Aldo Leopold

## Goal 2: Enhance Economics and Sustainable Working Lands

- Promote voluntary sustainability of Wake County's private and public working lands
  - Develop a Farmland Protection and Local Foods Enhancement Plan for Wake County
    - Assist stewardship on privately owned and managed working lands through the Wake County Voluntary Agricultural District Program
    - Support local enterprises which provide a fresh and healthy food supply to residents
    - Support agritourism and natural/outdoor recreational activities for improved quality of life for a growing urban population in Wake County

Status	Example of Work	Priority per Board of Supervisors	Est. Workload
<b>Current Workload</b>	Farmland Protection and Local Foods Enhancement Plan Grant process underway Promote VAD program in Wake County	High	.2 FTE
<b>New Work Initiatives</b>	Coordinate and work with partners to implement components of grant Conduct and facilitate VAD Advisory Group meetings with partnering agencies and Wake County residents Work with partnering agencies on new easements and stewardship on working lands Organize and provide leadership for the Keeping the Farm Workshop Promote organic and community farms	High	.2 FTE
<b>Dropped Work</b>	Natural Resource Conservationist no longer assigned to specific communities of Wake County – will need to re-allocate to priority areas in urban and rural communities (Delay in reaching area previously covered by lost conservationist) Eastern Wake project will be delayed until Falls Lake projects are implemented Marks Creek projects will be addressed on an “as available” basis or incorporated into other task Administrative assistance to support data base work, equipment and supply, filing etc	-	-.5 FTE

**Benefits/Outcome of Goal 2: Viable farms and prime farmland soils are maintained for present and future environmental benefits for Wake County residents**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Supports Board of Commissioners 2009 Work Goals</b>	<b>Workload</b>
Contracted services create a Farmland Protection and Local Food Enhancement Plan for Wake County	III, 5	Expend \$57,000 in grant and in kind for Wake County by contracting with private agency
Engaged VAD Advisory Board for resident input for a voice from rural Wake County	13, III	Support Advisory Group Chair with effective meetings – 3
Increased voluntary “free” stewardship of open space on private land	III, 13	2 Mailings and 1 countywide meeting to deliver information to landowners. Plus additional consultations as requested  5 additional landowners enrolled in VAD program
Leveraged funds, resources and new partnerships to permanently protect open space	III, 5	Work with NGO on 2 new working lands easements in Wake County
Increased opportunities for working lands and small farm enterprises to grow revenues for fresh produce and other local products	13, III	Work with local farms to market groups connecting farmers Team with NC Department of Agriculture  Provide technical assistance for increased yields.

### Goal 3: Coalition Building and Leadership for a “Green Wake County”

- Support Wake County Board of Commissioners role in Environmental Stewardship and Green Initiatives
  - Bring together new leadership in environmental stewardship in agronomic, commercial, industrial, educational, governing and private entities
    - Serve on the Citizen’s Task Force to evaluate current sustainability strategies and recommend changes and new strategies
    - Support entities with shared conservation and environmental goals (Reality Check, NGOs, commissions, etc.)
    - Support industries and organizations with sustainable green goals and missions

Status	Example of Work	Priority per Board of Supervisors	Est. Workload
<b>Current Workload</b>	Provide support to District Board of Supervisors, associates, and community leaders representing the District Meet all required obligations as determined by the NC Soil and Water Commission Fulfill obligations of G.S. 139 – 8 for Soil and Water Conservation District operations	High	0.3 FTE
<b>New Work Initiatives</b>	Establish new program to recognize green efforts throughout Wake County Provide technical review and comment on existing and new environmental initiatives to county management, municipalities, NGOs and other partners in environmental protection Establish tours, forums and meetings with elected officials to discuss Smart Growth in region Support green building through information and outreach efforts	High	0.2 FTE
<b>Dropped Work</b>	Personal reception and customer service for residents will diminish with the loss of the Secretary position Direct mailings reduced and will utilize list serve for information delivery (many of our clients do not use email list serve) Staff participation on committees will be limited	-	-0.4 FTE

**Benefits/Outcomes of Goal 3: Build a united community that provides leadership to address impacts on our environment, health and local economy**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Supports Board of Commissioners 2009 Work Goals</b>	<b>Workload</b>
District Board addressed social, economical and environmental challenges providing leadership for solutions	III 5	Support the District Board of Supervisors engagement with Wake County governing boards and councils
Recognize and award green and sustainable efforts throughout Wake County (individuals, businesses, corporations, governments, private organizations, communities, educational institutions)	13, III	Work with communities, individuals, media, urban developers, Chambers of Commerce, etc. for recognition standard
Establish liaison between residents and others (businesses, municipalities, state and federal agencies)	III	Promote forums and meetings for residents to utilize District authority to voice issues
Reduced water footprint Preserve sensitive natural areas	III	Provide Information for water conservation and environmental stewardship for Wake County residents
Increase green jobs in Wake County Reduce carbon footprint of businesses and residents	13, III	Recognize green builders and industries efforts to become green  Formal program for businesses and NGOs

## Goal 4: Connect communities and agencies to create local, watershed and global solutions

- Reorganize the District Educational and Outreach efforts to provide resources, information and tools to educate our adults and youth
- Connect citizens and public agencies providing a nonpartisan platform to address all natural resource concerns
  - Apply leadership in community meetings for environmental education, volunteering and involvement
  - Engage citizens to find voluntary solutions to Wake County’s growing ecological and economic challenges
  - Address energy, climate change and waste issues through workshops and facilitated problem solving goals between partners and communities

Status	Example of Work	Priority per Board of Supervisors	Est. Workload
<b>Current Workload</b>	Conduct and coordinate environmental education workshops for educators Implement Soil and Water poster contest for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders Coordinate Envirothon program for Wake County middle and high schools Participate in the Resource Conservation Workshop Coordinate Wake County Big Sweep Program	High	0.8 FTE
<b>New Work Initiatives</b>	Watershed Stewardship School Project No Child Left Inside initiative Brentwood Neighborhood Community Nature Trail Project Community conservation meetings in all areas of Wake County	High	0.5 FTE
<b>Dropped Work</b>	CWEP / TCOG Program Combine, reduce or eliminate study sessions for Envirothon teams Reduce number of appearances at public festival Review Spring Big Sweep feasibility (TBD) Reduce involvement in the Resource Conservation Workshop Restructure or eliminate District Awards Banquet (TBD per Board of Supervisors and Board of Commissioners)	-	-0.3 FTE

**Benefits/Outcome of Goal 4: Community meetings held in all areas of Wake County including towns and municipalities**

Benefit	Supports Board of Commissioners 2009 Work Goals	Workload
Increase environmental awareness and participation from an educated and active community	III 5	Reach over 2000 Wake County residents through direct delivery of environmental education programs
Communities take ownership and initiative to green their community	13, III	Work with 3 urban communities to address stormwater runoff or other resource concern
Promote actions such as local urban gardens, and reconnecting people to the land	III, 5	Involve 2 local businesses in support of community action and improvements
Engage underserved populations of Wake County in environmental stewardship	13, III	Meet with 2 rural and 2 urban communities to provide guidance in environmental problem solving



“...the economy is the wholly owned subsidiary of nature, not the other way around.”

US senator Gaylord Nelson

Fortunately, many smart organizations understand the importance of this shift in perspective and practice, and are acting accordingly.

Peter Senge

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