

# UPDATE

## BOND Referenda 2000

### *Environmental Protection* **EDUCATION** *Public Safety*

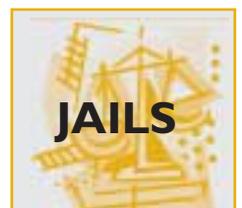
#### **Wake County Voters:**

On November 7, 2000, you approved \$535 million in three bond referenda for public school construction, criminal justice facility construction, and open space acquisition. At that time, we heard clearly that you wanted us to report back to you about how the bond money is being spent. We recognize the tremendous trust you have placed in us by approving the bonds, and are pleased to be held accountable for the actions taken related to the bonds.

By law, Wake County has seven years to issue bonds after voter authorization. So far, we have issued \$150 million in bonds for public school construction and renovations. We also have made some progress on jail construction and open space, but we will not issue bonds for those until we need to, thus saving interest costs.

This report is intended to update you on progress made in the three areas.

**Wake County Board of Commissioners**  
**Wake County Board of Education**



# Public schools: \$500 million

The Wake County Public School System presented voters with Plan 2000, a \$550-million plan that provides for:

- 14 new schools (eight elementary, four middle, one high and one special/optional) through 2004 (\$239 million)
- major renovations at 32 schools and minor improvements at 64 schools, for a total of 96 schools affected (\$284.1 million)
- advance funding for land purchases and planning for future schools (\$21.4 million)
- program contingency (\$5.5 million).

Of the total, \$500 million is being financed through bonds. The remainder is being paid in cash from the County's general fund.

**Bond Update:** January 2001, County issued \$150 million in bonds at 4.7% interest, repayable over the next 16 years.

## PLAN 2000 Systemwide Improvements - Completed in 2001

Brentwood Elementary  
East Millbrook Middle  
Hodge Road Elementary

## PLAN 2000 Systemwide Improvements - Will Complete in 2002

Cary High  
Pleasant Union Elementary  
Apex High  
Briarcliff Elementary  
Brooks Elementary  
Carroll Middle  
Conn Elementary  
Crech Elementary  
Hilburn Elementary  
Hunter Elementary  
Jones Dairy Elementary  
Lufkin Middle  
Lynn Road Elementary  
Morrisville Elementary

Northwoods Elementary  
Poe Elementary  
Powell Elementary  
Partnership Elementary  
Sanderson High  
Vandora Springs Elementary  
West Cary Middle  
Weatherstone Elementary  
West Lake Elementary  
Zebulon Elementary

## Major Projects in Design Phase

Baucom Elementary  
Swift Creek Elementary  
Vance Elementary  
Willow Springs Elementary  
Apex Elementary  
Cary Elementary  
Cedar Fork Elementary (new)  
East Garner Middle  
East Wake High  
Fuquay-Varina Middle

Leesville Ninth Grade Center  
Salem Middle (new)  
Millbrook Elementary  
Project Enlightenment  
Stough Elementary  
Underwood Elementary  
Broughton High  
Knightdale High (new)  
Heritage Middle (new)

## Major Projects Under Construction

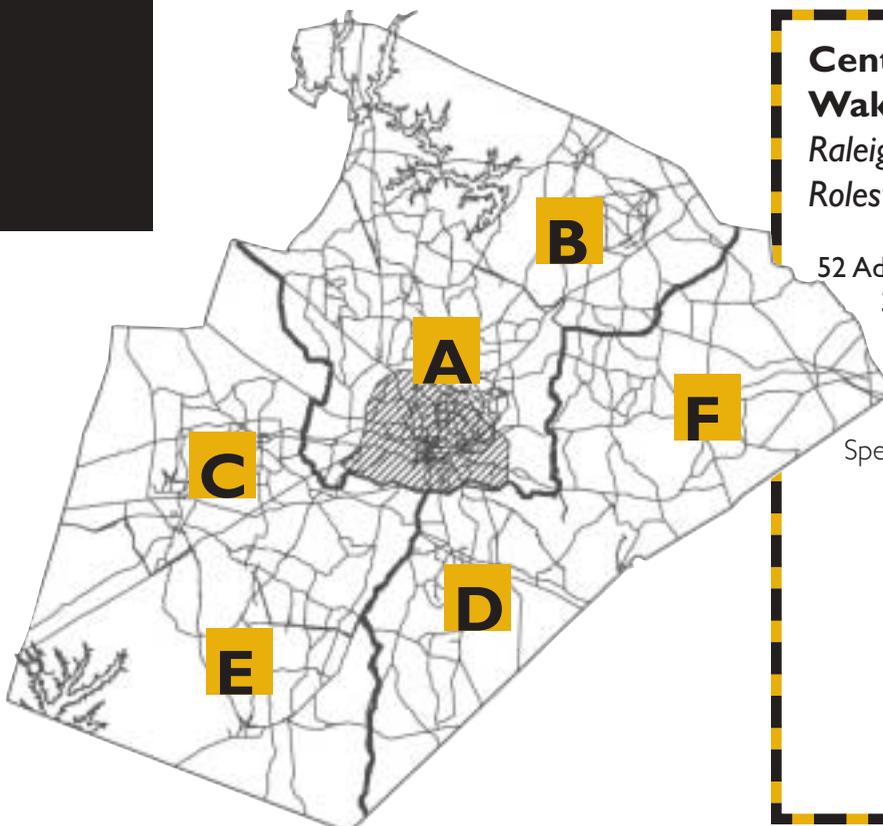
Athens Drive High  
Combs Elementary  
Heritage Elementary (new)  
Ballentine Elementary (new)  
Holly Ridge Elementary (new)  
Holly Ridge Middle (new)  
Reedy Creek Middle (new)  
Mt. Vernon Redirection  
Phillips High  
Farmington Woods Elementary  
Joyner Elementary



**Reedy Creek Middle School**



**Athens Drive High**



### Central & Northern Wake Areas A & B: *Raleigh, Wake Forest, Rolesville*

52 Additions and Improvements  
3 New Schools  
Heritage Elementary (2002)  
Heritage Middle (2004)  
Special/Optional Middle – (to be determined)

### Southwestern Wake Areas C & E: *Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Morrisville*

27 Additions and Improvements  
9 New Schools  
Ballentine Elementary (2002)  
Holly Ridge Elementary (2002)  
Cedar Fork Elementary (2003)  
Turner Creek Elementary (2004)  
Morrisville Pkwy Elementary (2004)  
Elementary - TBD (2004)  
Holly Ridge Middle (2002)  
Reedy Creek Middle (2002)  
Salem Middle (2003)

### Southeastern Wake Areas D & F: *Garner, Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon*

17 Additions and Improvements  
2 New Schools  
Forestville Elementary (2004)  
Knightdale High (2004)

*Dates reflect the year schools will be complete. Some will serve as "swing space," meaning they will house students from other schools during major renovations.*

# Open Space Acquisition: \$15 million

Wake County voters approved \$15 million to acquire land for open space preservation. This program is designed to preserve lands such as forests, meadows, fields, wetlands, floodplains and other areas that are to remain relatively undisturbed. The top priority is to protect and improve water quality by safeguarding lakes, rivers and streams.

**Bond Update:** These bonds have not yet been issued. However, Wake County has added more than 200 acres of open space since November 2000. Over the last four years, Commissioners have allocated \$1.35 million for open space, planning and acquisition, separate from the bond referendum. The County is prepared to issue the bonds as plans are developed to continue the open space preservation efforts.

## Open space acquisitions:

Date	Acreage	Cost	Purchase arrangement
May 7, 2001	127.5 acres on O'Neal Road in northern Wake County	\$1,066,475.55	This land will play a significant role in preserving water quality in the Falls Lake Watershed. The County acquired it from the Wilfred J. Hosley Charitable Remainder Trust. The proceeds of the sale will be invested by the trust, with Mr. Hosley and his daughter as beneficiaries. During their lifetimes, they will receive interest proceeds from the investment; afterward, the County will receive a portion of the purchase price back.
September 17, 2001	90.35 acres at Mitchell Mill Road and Pulley Town Road (adjacent to Mitchell Mill State Park)	\$691,178 (The County has been awarded a \$350,000 state Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant to use toward purchase of this property.)	This purchase was made from the Trust for Public Lands for the Open Space Preservation Program. The current owner, Lee Mae Pearce, has requested to continue farming operations on portions of the property, and will enter into an agricultural lease agreement with the County, not to exceed five years. In return for the grant, the County must convey a conservation easement that will establish a protected 300-foot riparian buffer along the Cedar Fork Creek Corridor. The preservation of this land will protect water quality in the Little River and Neuse River basins.

## Comprehensive Open Space Plan

*In addition to land acquisitions, the County continues to work on a comprehensive open space plan. Some milestones in that process:*

- On August 20, 2001, the Board of Commissioners adopted phase I of the Open Space Plan to use as a guide for open space acquisitions during the interim implementation phase.
- For the first time in the County's history, all 12 municipalities are working on open space preservation plans, and Wake County has hired Greenways Inc. as a consultant to fill in the missing links between municipalities. All of the plans will be incorporated into a Consolidated Open Space Plan for Wake County, which will be a community-wide open space plan that reflects the uniqueness and character of each area of the county.
- On November 1, the Partners for Open Space and the Environment, comprised of municipal representatives and their consultants, met to update each other on the progress of their plans and to coordinate their efforts. The target date for the Consolidated Open Space Plan is summer 2002.

## Growth, Watershed Plans

*Two other Board of Commissioner initiatives are closely related to the open space plans:*

- **Growth Management Task Force** – a countywide committee of elected officials chaired by Wake County Commissioners' Chair Michael Weeks. The task force is working toward a Growth Management Strategy by summer 2002 that will address land use standards, open space, transportation and other issues.
- **Watershed Management Task Force** – this countywide committee addresses the critical issue of watershed protection. It has been meeting since May 2001 under the chairmanship of Commissioner Kenn Gardner, and also is expected to complete work in summer 2002.

## Tying it all together

Three closely related planning processes underway are critical to the County's open space preservation efforts:

1. **Comprehensive Open Space Plan**
2. **Growth Management Task Force**
3. **Watershed Management Task Force**

Once all of these plans are completed, expected in summer 2002, we will be able to establish priorities for stream protection and then move forward with acquisition plans.

County citizens should see a great deal of open space activity sometime around 2003.

# Criminal Justice Facilities: \$20 million

Wake County asked voters to authorize \$20 million in bonds to expand the Hammond Road Criminal Justice Facility complex over the next several years. At that time, the County's jail was seriously overcrowded, and projections showed that the facility needed to be expanded by 664 beds by 2003. We had planned to add these beds in two phases: the first would add 248, and the next, 416.

**Bond Update:** These general obligation bonds have not been issued. Since January 2001, concerted efforts have been made to stabilize the jail population by stepping up programs such as electronic monitoring, which means that fewer beds are needed in the jail. The initial work of increasing kitchen and laundry capacities, along with adding 248 beds, was underway when the bond referendum was held. This initial phase has been completed and currently meets our needs.

The next phase, the 416-bed addition, has been postponed for at least one year, based on updated inmate bedspace projections. Staff will continue to monitor the need for expansion, and will make recommendations to the County Commissioners as needed.

In the meantime, several steps have been taken to continue development of the Hammond Road complex. The money is coming from \$8 million in bond funds that were issued separately and did not require voter approval, along with earlier appropriated capital funds.

## Progress on the Hammond Road facility since November 2000:

Acquired 20 acres of additional land on Hammond Road for long-term development of detention facilities (should meet needs for 25 years)	\$2.7 million
Completed construction of Phase IA of Detention Facilities Plan (added 248-bed medium security facility on Hammond Road)	\$7.6 million
Completed renovations and equipment replacement in Public Safety Center kitchen and laundry facilities to increase capacity for additional inmates	\$0.3 million
Completed infrastructure improvements (site clearing, water, sewer, storm drainage and street improvements) for proposed future 416-bed detention facility. Completed design and preparation of construction documents for this phase (416-bed medium security detention facility) ready to go to bid when inmate population reaches critical level.	\$1.5 million
	<b>Total: \$12.1 million</b>



**The Hammond Road facility**

## Investing for growth in Wake County

### Wake County Board of Commissioners

Michael Weeks, Chair  
Linda Coleman, Vice Chair  
Herb Council  
Kenn Gardner  
Vernon Malone  
Betty Mangum  
Betty Lou Ward

### Wake County Board of Education

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Susan Parry, Vice Chair  
Beverley Clark  
Bill Fletcher  
Rosa Gill  
Judy Hoffman  
JC O'Neal  
Tom Oxholm  
Jeffrey York

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