



Soil and Water Conservation Department

FY16 Accomplishments

towards

Wake County Board of Commissioners' 2016 Goals

Board Goals 2016

Community Health: Objective 2: Support building a “culture of health” based on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation model for healthy communities.

Initiative 2: Support growth of Wake County’s local food movement and access to local healthy food.

Economic Strength: Objective 2: Leverage, coordinate and collaborate with our municipalities, nonprofit organizations, universities, capital markets, and entrepreneurs to increase opportunities and support for entrepreneurial ventures. Initiative 1: **Identify barriers that prevent existing small businesses (Agribusinesses) from accessing resources** and leveraging growth opportunities, and develop strategies for overcoming these barriers.

Education: Goal: Through collaboration with education stakeholders, achieve a well-educated, skilled citizenry prepared for success in a global workforce. Initiative 4: Support opportunities to enhance arts education through integration with partner agencies and/or direct county investment. (Poster Contest, Environmental Education)

Great Government: Objective 4: Develop citizen engagement opportunities and facilitate opportunities for volunteerism/civic engagement. Initiative 1: Enhance the County’s Volunteer Recognition Program. (Wake County Big Sweep)

Growth and Sustainability: Goal: Establish a deliberate and realistic approach to address growth while preserving our environment and individual communities. Objective 3: Maintain protection of watershed and stream buffers. Initiative 2: Encourage farmland preservation; revisit goals of Wake County Agricultural Economic Development Plan (WCAEDP). Objective 4: Address quality and quantity issues associated with water resources. Initiative 2: Promote conservation measures on farms and forest lands in current and potential water supply watersheds in Wake County.

FY2016 Significant Accomplishments – Soil and Water Conservation Department

2,224.9 forest and farmland acres have been included in comprehensive Conservation Management Plans to protect natural resources.

140 Wake County landowners attended the 11th Annual Keeping the Farm Workshop in January, 2016. Over 30 public, private, and agriculture-related partners helped organize and conduct the workshop.



\$391,609 in cost share funds were encumbered from Federal and State sources to implement conservation practices with completed designs per NRCS Engineering Technical Specifications and Guide.

INCREASED 78% due to approved budget Expansion Request for new staff



48 cost share contracts were written to address natural resource problems and improve water quality. Local businesses and contractors installed the conservation practices.

Up 41% due to approved budget Expansion Request for new staff



1,047.55 acres of Conservation Best Management Practices were installed to protect and improve water quality in Wake County’s Neuse and Cape Fear River Basins.

Up 62% due to approved budget Expansion Request for new staff



\$150,522.44 in reimbursement was paid to Wake County landowners from Federal and State funds for completed contracts on conservation practice installation.

INCREASED 136% due to approved budget Expansion Request for new staff

Up 32%



319 business professionals, consultants and community partners collaborated with staff to leverage resources for conservation, education and volunteer programs, soils evaluations, and construction site investigations in Wake County.



5,693.65 tons of Sediment prevented from reaching water courses by completed conservation practices in Little River, Falls Lake, Marks Creek, Swift Creek and other watersheds.

INCREASED 269% due to approved budget Expansion Request for new staff

427 site visits were made by District staff to **Wake County Farms** and rural property to evaluate natural resource problems.

3,298 citizens were assisted with **environmental information** to increase landowner and homeowner understanding of erosion and nutrient loading problems. Youth and families were engaged in environmental education programs and projects emphasizing pollution prevention through personal and collective stewardship of Wake County's natural resources.

66 Educators trained in **Environmental Education** to maximize potential outreach training to **27,008 learners**.

1,396 Volunteers removed **15,425 pounds of litter** from the environment and diverted **5,660 lbs. of recyclable materials** from the Wake County landfill. This resulted in cleaner streams, lakes and wetlands through Soil and Water Conservation Department's coordination of the **Wake County Big Sweep Program**.

3,526 hours of donated **volunteer services** saved Wake County **\$76,840**. (Estimated value by *Independent Sector*)

Thank you for supporting the work of the Soil and Water Conservation Department.

The **significant increase** in deliverables is an excellent return on investment of the approved budget expansion for FY2016!