

# 2012 Annual Report

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012



**Mission:** *To protect the natural resources of Wake County through voluntary technical, educational and funding assistance to citizens, businesses, communities, municipalities and partners.*



# Wake County's Conservation Team & Community Leaders

## Wake County Soil and Water Conservation Department County Staff

Teresa Furr, Natural Resources Conservationist  
Teresa Hice, Natural Resources Conservationist  
Sheila Jones, Environmental Educator  
Dale Threatt-Taylor, District Director  
Josh Vetter, Natural Resources Conservationist

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Raleigh Field Office Staff

Matthew Kinane, District Conservationist  
Themis Stone, Soil Conservationist  
**Special Soils Project**  
Larry Sink, Soil Scientist



*(All volunteer elected and appointed officials)*

## Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors (as of Winter 2012)

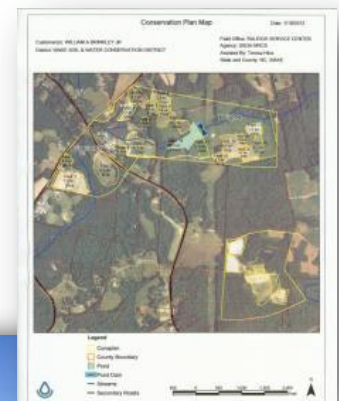
Thomas Dean, Chair  
William Cole, Vice-Chair  
Marshall Harvey, Secretary - Treasurer  
Patrick Johnson  
Jennifer Wadsworth

## Associate Board of Supervisors

Quincy Adams	David Adams	Marilyn Grolitzer
Robin Hammond	Laura Parker	Larry Perry
John Phelps	John Rogers	Carlyle Teague
Matthew Whitfield	Donnie Woodlief	

## Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Committee

Patrick Johnson, Chair



# 2011 - 2012 Year in Review

## Water Quality

*Best Management Practices – Conservation on the Land*

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District is in the forefront of natural resources work and water quality protection. The District strategically focuses its projects on priority watersheds, impaired streams, and targeted funding areas for state and federal water quality improvements. The priority areas are Falls Lake, Little River, Swift Creek and Jordan Lake ... all drinking water supply watersheds. Priority is then directed to rural areas that have EPA 303(d) impaired streams and working lands active in farm, forest, and local food production. Work is directed to match the resource concerns that are increasing due to Wake County's extensive number of horse operations with nutrient management concerns. The District responds to these concerns with collaborative funding projects to address stormwater erosion issues, but state funds are limited. Citizens and businesses provide a shared cost amount for each project.



*Dr. Bill Atkinson stands near his innovative movable fence system used in his rotational grazing on his Knightdale farm. He worked with Natural Resource Conservationist Teresa Hice to correct his nutrient management and erosion problems.*

- ★ **1562.55 acres** of comprehensive **Conservation Management Plans** were written to protect natural resources on of forest and farmland.
- ★ **481.6 acres** of **Conservation Best Management Practices** were installed to protect and improve water quality.
- ★ **37.3 acres** of **Nutrient Management Plans** were developed and implemented.
- ★ **1248.2 tons** of **Sediment** was prevented from reaching water courses by completed conservation practices.
- ★ **353 site visits** were made by District staff to **Wake County Farms**.
- ★ **39,182 square feet** of Best Management Practices were installed as part of the **Community Conservation Assistance Program** for non-agricultural areas.
- ★ **133 acres** of farmland were added to the **Wake County Voluntary Agricultural Districts**.

## Environmental Education and Outreach

*Stewardship, outreach, information*

To encourage citizens' environmental stewardship, Wake District engages Wake Countians of all ages in learning the science and importance of natural resources, watersheds, and community conservation through best education, management and stewardship practices.

Wake District took the lead in implementing several large adult workshops and trainings in FY2011-12. Trained educators can then teach many more students, maximizing Wake District's outreach.

By providing volunteer projects, Wake District provides students a chance to earn community service hours and people of all ages the opportunity to practice environmental stewardship first-hand. FY2011-12 was a banner year for volunteer involvement with 2,978 volunteers actively participating in Wake County Big Sweep and Earth Team projects.

Through Wake District's experiential youth programs, Wake County students achieved top honors, receiving scholarships, cash prizes, and public recognition.

**Envirothon:** 1st Place, regional - Enloe High in Raleigh (\$500)  
 1st Place, state - Enloe High School in Raleigh (\$500 + 200 + trip to nationals)  
 1st Place Project, state - Holly Ridge Middle School in Holly Springs (\$100)

**Poster Contest:** 2nd Place, regional - Green Hope Elementary in Cary (\$50)

**Resource Conservation Workshop:** 3rd Place, state - Enloe High School in Raleigh (\$100)

**Service Learning:** Watershed Stewardship Award to York Elementary in Raleigh (title & engraved plaque)



*Wake County supports the first blind Envirothon Team in the nation. This team from Governor Morehead School for the blind competed in the Area IV competition.*

- ★ **5,808 citizens** were assisted with **environmental information** to increase landowner and homeowner understanding of erosion and nutrient loading problems.
- ★ **54 Educators** trained in **Environmental Education** to maximize potential outreach training to **1,546** others.
- ★ **2,590 Volunteers** collected **28,937 lbs. of litter** for cleaner streams, lakes and wetlands through coordination of the **Wake County Big Sweep Program**.
- ★ **4,506 hours** of donated **volunteer services** saved Wake County **\$96,248**. (Estimated value by Independent Sector)
- ★ **1,298 Earth Team volunteers** donated **388 hours** of services valued at **\$27,725** to school gardens and other community projects.



## Environmental Education and Outreach



High School students learn the importance of soils and topography in understanding the protection of water quality at the 2012 Resource Conservation Workshop

- ★ **731 Youth and 394 families** were engaged in environmental education projects.
- ★ **732 business professionals, consultants and community partners collaborated** with staff to leverage resources for conservation efforts in Wake County.
- ★ **150 Wake County landowners** attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Keeping the Farm Workshop in January 2012.



York Elementary in Raleigh was awarded Wake County's 2<sup>nd</sup> Watershed Stewardship School certification. York Creek completed 10 actions to learn about and improve their Hair Snipe Creek watershed.



Wake County landowners pack the Commons building to learn about updates that impact their farm operations.

Commissioner Chairman Paul Coble welcomes Wake County farm and forest landowners to the Keeping the Farm Workshop.



# Economic \$ Impact of Wake District's Work

## Resources for Wake County

### Funding for Best Management Practices

To assist landowners with conservation actions, the Wake District matches projects with outside funding sources including federal and state conservation programs.

The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share program funds water quality and conservation projects that require a 25% match on a set rate for area counties. Wake County's cost is, on average, higher therefore the landowner's share typically exceeds 25%. Essentially all public and private lands are eligible for the programs. Eligible participants include landowners, businesses, schools, community groups and local governments.

#### Wake County Soil and Water Department

FY 12 Budget: **\$430,665**

*(Includes 5 staff and operational budget)*

*This is the only County Department that provides technical services to Wake County's \$2.6 billion Agricultural/Agribusiness Industry.*

- ★ **64 cost share contracts** were written to address natural resources problems and improve water quality.
- ★ **\$234,317 funds** were **encumbered** from Federal and State sources to implement conservation practices with completed designs per NRCS Engineering Technical Specifications/Guide.
- ★ **\$105,871 funds** were **paid to Wake County landowners** from federal and state funds for completed contracts on conservation practices installed.
- ★ **\$75,819.34 Federal funds** for Wake County projects paid through District collaboration and USDA NRCS.

To contact Wake County Soil and Water Conservation Department call 919-250-1050 or email the Director at [dthreattaylor@wakegov.com](mailto:dthreattaylor@wakegov.com).

Visit our website at [www.wakegov.com/swcd](http://www.wakegov.com/swcd)

