

Summary of Findings and Recommendations for the Tickle, Travis, and Little Alamance Local Watershed Plan

Project Overview

In 2006, the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) initiated a Local Watershed Plan (LWP) in Tickle, Travis and Little Alamance creeks. Tickle and Travis creeks hydrologic unit (HU 03030002030010) is 35 square miles split by the Haw River. Little Alamance (HU 03030002040110) is 16 square miles draining portions of Burlington and Graham and split by Interstate-40/85. These HUs are located in the Upper Cape Fear Catalog Unit (CU 03030002)

Since 2000, Little Alamance Creek has been listed as impaired by the NC Division of Water Quality due to poor stream biological ratings. The Creek's challenges include poor water quality, degraded biology, loss of riparian vegetation, bank erosion and urban runoff. In Travis and Tickle creeks, poor stream biologic conditions were noted as well, potentially to the level of receiving an impaired waters rating. This watershed suffers from by poor riparian habitat, impacts from suburban development, and agricultural runoff. Together, these watersheds were studied from 2006 to 2008 for the Little Alamance, Tickle and Travis creeks LWP.

The watersheds drain to the Haw River, a major recreational and cultural asset for the region, and subsequently to Jordan Lake, a drinking water supply also classified by DWQ as a Nutrient Sensitive Water.

The Tickle, Travis and Little Alamance LWP final report highlights stressors affecting aquatic ecosystems in the LWP and provides management strategies to help improve water quality and protect area streams (Please see Table 1).

Table 1. Key watershed stressors and management strategies for the Tickle, Travis, and Little Alamance watersheds

Stressors and Issues	Management Strategies
Stream bank erosion	Stream restoration, riparian buffers, livestock exclusion,
Lack of adequate forested buffer	Streamside buffer ordinances, stream restoration, riparian buffers, livestock exclusion, reduced herbicide use, Forestry BMPs
Stormwater Runoff	Stormwater Retrofit, Enhanced Stormwater Utilities, BMPs, Low impact development (LID)
Livestock access to streams	Livestock exclusion
Floodplain development	Floodplain development ordinance
Urban toxicants	Illicit discharge program, watershed education program, stormwater BMPs, reduced herbicide and insecticide usage.
Nutrients	Illicit discharge program, ag BMPs, riparian buffers, watershed education program, stormwater BMPs, additional studies
Fecal coliform bacteria	Retrofit wastewater collection system, agricultural BMPs, illicit discharge program, watershed education program, stormwater BMPs
Poor development practices	Public Education, LID

Project Stakeholders

Table 2 provides a listing of the groups and individuals were participants in the watershed plan.

Table 2. LWP Participants

Organization	Stakeholders
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Greg Messinger, Ken Bridle
Haw River Assembly	Brian Baker
Piedmont Triad Council of Governments	Cy Stober, Paula Sloneker, Kristen Selikoff, Jesse Day, Paul Kron, Ginger Booker
Alamance County	Phil Ross
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Rick Bailey
City of Burlington	Tony Laws, Bob Patterson, Steve Shoaf, Bob Harkrader, Gary Hicks
Town of Elon	Sean Tencer
Town of Gibsonville	Ben Baxley, Manager Brandon Parker,
City of Graham	Aaron Holland, Mike Leinwand, Donnie Braxton
Guilford County	Roger Bardsley, Alex Ashton, Millie Langley
NC EEP	Perry Sugg, Kristie Corson, Deborah Amaral, Michael Herrmann
NC DWQ	Stratford Kay, Steve Kroeger, Tom Yocum
Wildlife Resources Commission	Shari Bryant
Resource Conservation & Development	Julie Elmore