

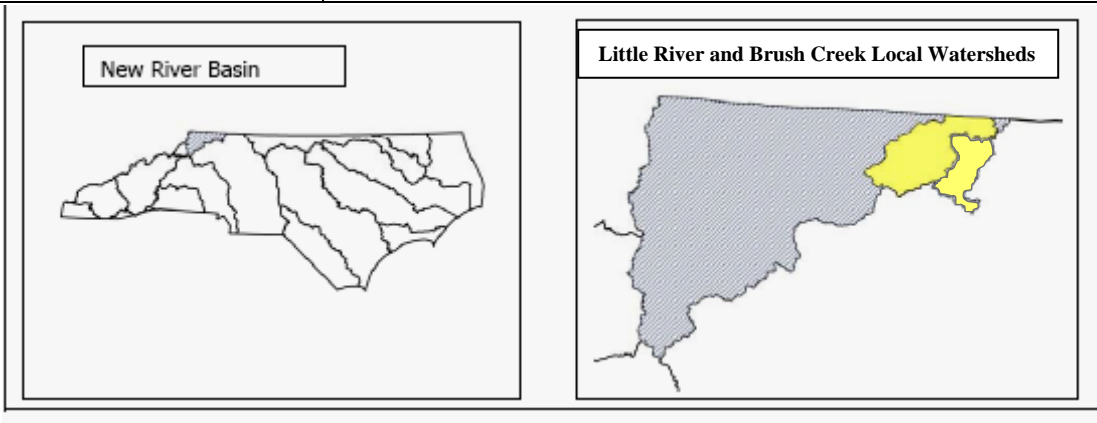
N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program



Restoring... Enhancing... Protecting Our State

Little River and Brush Creek Local Watershed Plan FACT SHEET

<p>Location River Basin: Cataloging Unit: 14-digit Hydrologic Units: Counties:</p>	<p>New 05050001 05050001030020 (Little River), 05050001030030 (Brush Creek) Alleghany</p>
<p>Watershed Area</p>	<p>~ 111 square miles</p>
<p>Planning Contact:</p>	<p>Hal Bryson - Ecosystem Enhancement Program (828) 450-9408 hal.bryson@ncdenr.gov</p>
<p>Participants:</p>	<p>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – including Alleghany County Soil & Water Conservation District, Town of Sparta, County Planning Dep't., NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC DOT, Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust, NCSU Cooperative Extension Service, High Country COG (Region D), Nat'l Committee for the New River, NC DWQ, Blue Ridge RC&D</p>
<p>Contractor Hired for Watershed Assessment</p>	<p>WK Dickson [Jeff Keaton and Michael Ellison] (919) 782-0495 jkeaton@wkdickson.com</p>



Project Overview

This Local Watershed Planning (LWP) effort began in the summer of 2003 and initially focused just on the Little River watershed [Hydrologic Unit 05050001030020]. The work was placed on temporary hold after completion of the preliminary watershed characterization report in the spring of 2004. It has been re-started as of December 2005, and the Brush Creek watershed [HU 05050001030030] has been added to the study area, which now totals approximately 111 square miles in area. See *Figure 1* on the next page for a general map of the two watersheds.

Despite historically good water quality conditions – including several streams designated as High Quality (HOW) or Trout (Tr) waters – there are past and ongoing land use activities that threaten the quality of aquatic resources within these two local watersheds. The conversion of agricultural lands to residential/commercial uses has the potential of increasing key watershed stressors (e.g., impervious cover).



Although no stream segments within either of these two local watersheds are considered to have significantly impaired water quality, there are a number of streams and riparian buffer reaches noted as having habitat degradation issues by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) in their most recent *Basinwide Assessment Report* [Aug. 2004] and *Basinwide Water Quality Plan* [Oct. 2005] for the New River basin.

Numerous opportunities for stream, wetlands and buffer restoration projects were noted in the Phase I watershed characterization report [WK Dickson, March 2004], which identified several major watershed stressors, including: unforested buffers that are heavily grazed; livestock access to streams; heavily eroded stream banks; land-disturbing activities on steep slopes; and storm water runoff in and around the town of Sparta.

Project Schedule

The preliminary watershed characterization was completed in March of 2004 [see link below to *Phase I – Preliminary Findings & Recommendations* report]. The overall timeline for Phases II (Detailed Assessment & Modeling) and III (Development of Watershed Management Plan and Project Atlas) was from December 2005 through June of 2007. As part of these efforts, WK Dickson conducted an in-depth evaluation of conditions in the upper and lower Bledsoe Creek sub-watersheds in the vicinity of the Town of Sparta, including the identification of possible storm water best management practices (BMPs) project sites. [The water quality and ecology of Bledsoe Creek is considered to be at risk, based on the results of monitoring efforts undertaken by NC DWQ staff during Phase II of this work.] A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was convened in the spring of 2006 to identify local watershed protection goals, to assist in the prioritization of watershed restoration/enhancement projects and to help develop the local watershed management recommendations contained within the final Plan.

A core group of TAC members (the “Bledsoe Creek Advisory Team” or BCAT) will continue to meet periodically, beginning in July of 2007, to coordinate efforts to pursue grant funding for the implementation of local storm water BMP projects and the development of a local watershed education program. EEP Implementation staff have initiated the design and construction of several stream and wetlands restoration projects within the Little River and Brush Creek watersheds.

Little River/Bledsoe Creek LWP documents are available for downloading:

[Phase I – Preliminary Findings & Recommendations Report](#) [Spring 2004]

[Tech. Memo 1: Identification of Project Opportunities throughout Study Area](#) [March 2007]

[Tech. Memo 2: Detailed Assessment of Bledsoe Creek Subwatersheds](#) [March 2007]

[Final Bledsoe Creek Watershed Management Plan](#) [June 2007]

[Summary of Findings & Recommendations for the Little River and Bledsoe Creek Local Watershed Plan](#)

**Figure 1:
Little River Watershed and
Bledsoe Creek Sub-Watersheds**

Hydrologic Units:

Little River - 05050001030020

Brush Creek - 0505001030030

Data Sources:

DEM and roads datasets supplied by the NC DOT, 2005.

Stream, watershed boundary, and city limit datasets supplied by the NCCGIA, 2005.

Coordinate System:

Datum: NAD 83 Stateplane, North Carolina

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Legend:

— Roads

— Hydrography

▭ Watershed Boundaries

Elevation (FT)

4000 - 4200

3800 - 4000

3600 - 3800

3400 - 3600

3200 - 3400

3000 - 3200

2800 - 3000

2600 - 2800

0 - 2600

Little River Watershed

New River Basin

← Little River Watershed

← Brush Creek Watershed

← Upper Bledsoe Creek Sub-Watershed

← Lower Bledsoe Creek Sub-Watershed

← Sparta

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