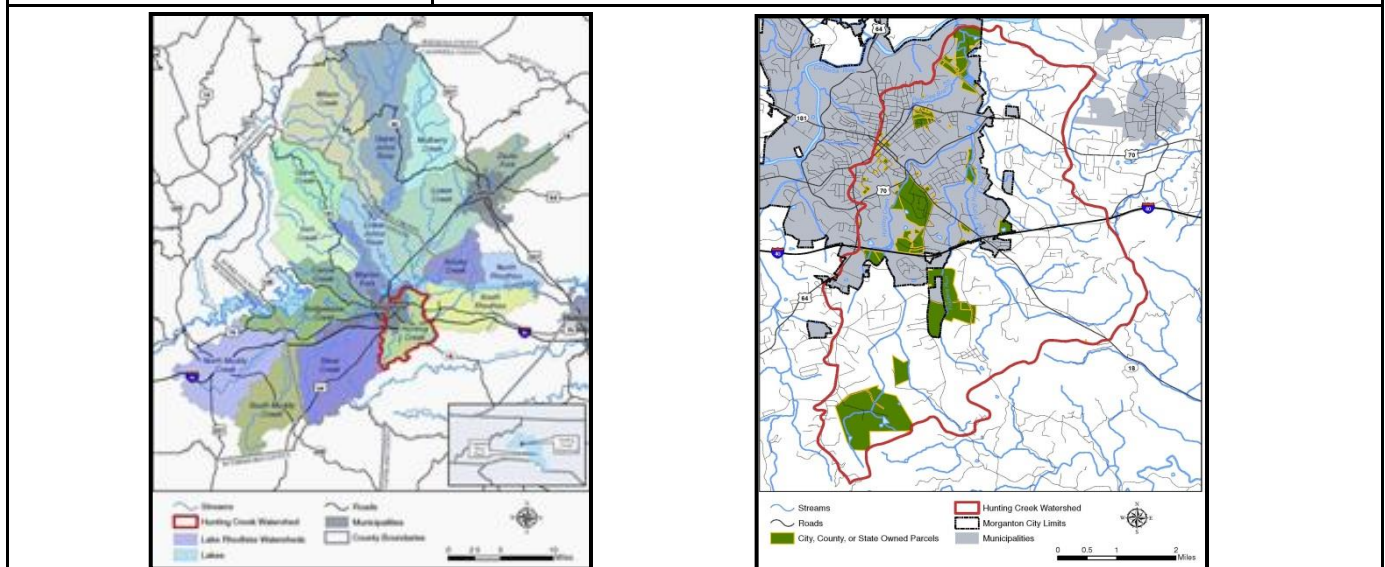


HUNTING CREEK LOCAL WATERSHED PLAN FACT SHEET

<p>Location: River Basin: Cataloging Unit: 14-digit Hydrologic Units: Counties:</p>	<p>Morganton, NC Catawba 03050101 03050101060050 Burke</p>
<p>Watershed Area:</p>	<p>26 square miles</p>
<p>Planning Contact:</p>	<p>Equinox Environmental (Asheville, NC)</p>
<p>Participants:</p>	<p>Western Piedmont COG; Burke Co. Soil & Water Conservation District; Burke Co. Planning & Development; Burke Co. NRCS; Carolina Land & Lakes RCD; Western Piedmont Community College; Upper Catawba Riverkeeper; NC Cooperative Extension Service; City of Morganton Parks & Recreation; NC Div. of Forest Resources; Broughton Hospital; NC DWQ</p>
<p>Funding Sources:</p>	<p>NC CWMTF, NC 319, NC EEP</p>



Project Overview

The Hunting Creek LWP effort was initiated in September 2008 to address water quality impairment and habitat degradation in the 26-square mile Hunting Creek watershed. Over seven miles of Hunting Creek, a Water Supply (WS) classified stream, is included on the state's 303(d) list due to impaired ecological integrity (fair bioclassification from fish community sampling). A group of stakeholders, the Hunting Creek Partners – representing local government, state agencies, local institutions and interested citizens – met on eight occasions to provide input on the watershed assessment work and the final restoration plan. The process culminated in the production of two major documents, the



Hunting Creek Watershed Assessment & BMPs Evaluation (Equinox, Nov. 2009) and the *Hunting Creek Watershed Plan* (Equinox, Feb. 2011) [see below for document links].

Watershed assessment methods and types of data collected include:

- Compilation and review of existing/historical watershed data;
- Biological data (fish community and benthic macroinvertebrate sampling);
- Water chemistry data (nutrients, conductivity, temperature, dissolve oxygen);
- Fecal coliform data;
- Land use/land cover analysis;
- General watershed/windshield survey;
- Assessment of riparian zone condition and stream habitat and geomorphic conditions;
- Identification of significant stream bank erosion and channel incision sites;
- Inventory of storm water discharge outfalls, utility crossings, channel modifications, bridges/culverts and dams;
- Inventory and evaluation of stormwater BMP sites;
- Annual pollutant load estimates (nutrients, total suspended solids, and zinc).

Major stressors (and their sources) affecting water quality and habitat within the Hunting Creek watershed include: urban development (conversion of forest land to impervious surfaces); stormwater runoff, including increased flows/velocities and urban pollutants; stream bank erosion; increased sedimentation within streams; degraded riparian buffers, including lack of woody vegetation; agricultural and residential land management practices (e.g., pasture or cropland directly adjacent to stream banks, mowing stream banks); fecal coliform bacteria; and elevated nitrogen concentrations in areas draining agricultural lands and low-density development.

Management strategies recommended by the Hunting Creek Partners to address the key watershed stressors include stream and buffer restoration, stormwater BMPs, low impact development (LID) practices for new subdivisions, and protection of headwater forests.

A *Project Atlas* of potential stream (and riparian buffer) restoration/enhancement sites and preservation parcels was developed in the fall of 2009 by Equinox and is included in the documents available for downloading (see below).

Documents

[Hunting Creek Watershed Assessment \(Equinox, 2009\)](#)

[Hunting Creek Watershed Plan \(Equinox, 2011\)](#)

[Evaluation & Prioritization of Mitigation Opportunities: Lower Creek & Hunting Creek Watersheds \(Equinox, Oct. 2009\)](#)

[Summary of Findings and Recommendations](#)

