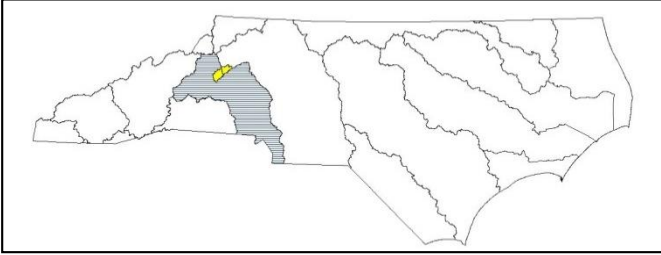
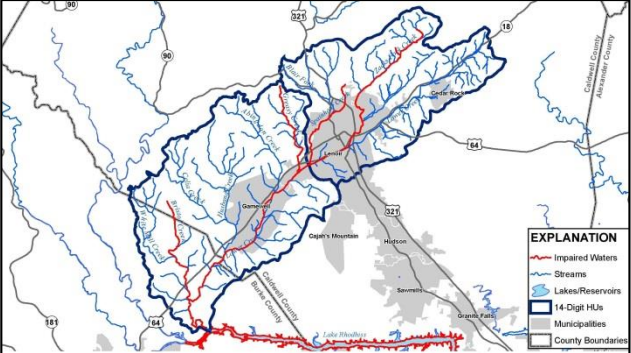


LOWER CREEK LOCAL WATERSHED PLAN FACT SHEET

<p>Location: River Basin: Cataloging Unit: 14-digit Hydrologic Units: Counties:</p>	<p>Near Lenoir, NC Catawba 03050101 03050101080010, 03050101080020 Burke, Caldwell</p>
<p>Watershed Area:</p>	<p>99 square miles</p>
<p>Participants:</p>	<p>Western Piedmont COG; Technical Advisory Committee</p>
<p>Contractor Hired for Watershed Assessment</p>	<p>MACTEC Engineering</p>
 	

Project Overview

The Lower Creek watershed is 99 square miles and is located in Burke and Caldwell Counties, including the towns of Lenoir and Gamewell. This watershed is in the foothills of the Southern Appalachians and is characterized by both rural and urban landscapes. Agriculture, residential development, and the furniture industry are major economic drivers of the area. Lower Creek and its receiving body, Lake Rhodhiss, are on North Carolina's 2006 303(d) list of impaired waters. Zack's Fork, Greasy Creek, Bristol Creek, and Spainhour Creek are major tributaries within the Lower Creek watershed, and are also on the 303(d) list.

Intensive field monitoring and GIS assessment have pinpointed major causes of degradation for watershed streams, which include stormwater pollution and scour, lack of riparian vegetation, channelization, sedimentation, chronically high fecal coliform bacteria, nutrients, floodplain encroachment, and toxicity. With the help of the Lower Creek Technical Advisory Committee, subwatersheds and streams were prioritized for restoration and preservation activities and a set of management recommendations was developed to conserve and restore water and habitat quality in the Lower Creek watershed.



Thirty-eight stream and wetland restoration and preservation projects were identified in priority subwatersheds. In addition, four stormwater BMPs were highlighted as examples of stormwater treatment retrofit locations. A number of institutional measures were named for consideration by Burke and Caldwell Counties and the municipalities of Lenoir and Gamewell. These measures include the adoption of the Lower Creek Watershed Management Plan as a supplement to local comprehensive plans and the development of stormwater management and steep slope development ordinances. Protection of water quality in the Lake Rhodhiss water supply reservoir is a major goal of recommended watershed protection measures.

Project Schedule

An initial characterization of the watershed was finalized in May 2004, and the Watershed Assessment Report was completed in February 2006. A final Watershed Plan was completed in July 2006. Efforts to implement plan recommendations are on-going, coordinated through a stakeholder group named the Lower Creek Advisory Team. Caldwell County and both municipalities in the County's portion of the Lower Creek watershed, Lenoir and Gamewell, adopted a comprehensive stormwater and sedimentation control ordinance in October 2007. A stormwater wetland has been constructed in the Lower Creek floodplain in the City of Lenoir, with the help of a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant. The Lower Creek Watershed Restoration Implementation Plan, conducted by the Burke and Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and funded through a 319 grant, is implementing best management practices in the watershed.

Planning Documents for Download

[Preliminary Watershed Characterization for Lower Creek](#)

[Watershed Assessment Report](#)

[NC DWQ Monitoring Report](#)

[Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Watershed Management Plan Executive Summary](#)

[Findings and Recommendations Summary](#)

