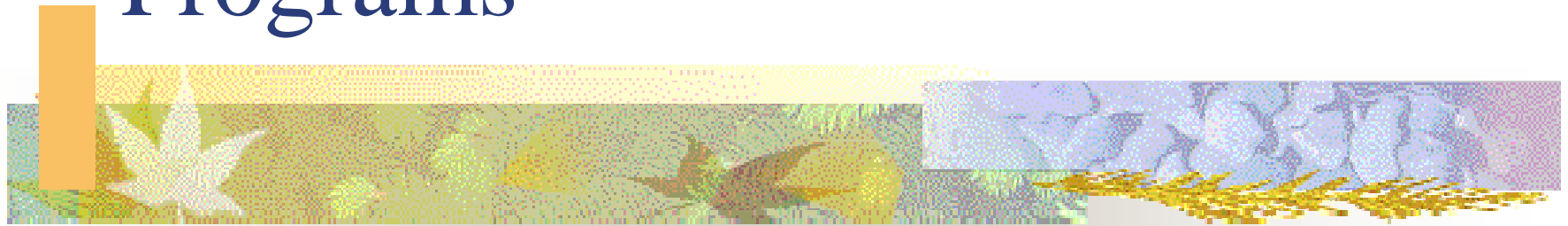


# Buffer and Nutrient Offset Programs



Neuse River Basin



# Purpose of Buffer Rules

- ...protect and preserve existing riparian buffers to maintain their nutrient removal functions...



# N.C. Buffer Rules

- Neuse & Tar-Pamlico River Basins
- Randleman Lake Watershed
- Catawba River Basin

# Major Components of the Riparian Buffer Protection Rules

- Applicability
- Buffer Width
- Vegetation/Existing Use
- Table of Uses
- Mitigation
- Delegation
- Variance Requests



# Where does the buffer apply? (Neuse & Tar-Pamlico)

## ■ Applies to:

- Perennial streams
- Intermittent streams
- Lakes
- Ponds
- Estuaries
- Modified natural streams

## ■ Does not apply to:

- Ditches & manmade conveyances; unless constructed for navigation or boat access
- Ephemeral streams
- Manmade ponds & lakes outside natural drainage ways



## MAPS:

- Most recent USGS Topos
- County Soil Surveys

Surface Waters “approximately shown”



# **BUFFER WIDTH:**

## **50-FOOT BUFFER w/ TWO “ZONES”**

“Zone 1” = (inner 30 feet), undisturbed vegetated area

“Zone 2” = (outer 20 feet), stable vegetated area w/ allowances for grading, provided that the area is revegetated and the health of existing vegetation in Zone 1 is not compromised



# RIPARIAN BUFFER

## IMPACTS:

- Randleman Lake Water Supply Watershed  
= 60.26 acres
  - Neuse River Basin = 242.76 acres
  - Tar-Pamlico River Basin = 13.64 acres
- Payment to the EEP = \$13,241,961.22



# **NEUSE STORMWATER RULE:**

Applies to the largest and fastest-growing local governments in the Neuse River basin. The rule establishes a broad set of objectives for reducing nitrogen runoff from urban areas. The rule also sets up a process for the Division of Water Quality to work with the affected local governments to develop a model stormwater plan for meeting the objectives.



# THE AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE:

- Cary
- Durham
- Garner
- Goldsboro
- Havelock
- Kinston
- New Bern
- Raleigh
- Smithfield
- Wilson
- Durham County
- Johnston County
- Orange County
- Wake County
- Wayne County

# Nutrient Sensitive Waters Management Strategy Rules

## Require:

- Nitrogen load contributed by new development activities is held at 70% of the average nitrogen load contributed by the 1995 land uses of the non-urban areas of the Neuse River Basin.
- Local governments shall use a nitrogen export standard of 3.6 pounds/acre/year.
- Development must attain, at a minimum, a nitrogen export that does not exceed 6 pounds/acre/year for residential development and 10 pounds/acre/year for commercial or industrial development.



# NUTRIENT OFFSET PAYMENTS

- Nutrient offset payments made as part of fulfilling requirements of the Neuse River Nutrient Sensitive Waters Management Strategy shall be paid to the N.C. Wetland Restoration Fund within the EEP.
- Monies paid to this fund will be targeted toward projects that reduce nitrogen input to the Neuse River Basin.
- The payment rate is \$11.00/pound/year for 30 years of Nitrogen reduction (\$330.00/pound/year for a 30-year period).



# Nutrient Offset Payment Received by the EEP

■ Craven County	\$155,125.40
■ Durham County	\$326,623.77
■ Johnston County	\$103,333.63
■ Lenoir County	\$12,467.98
■ Orange County	\$5,318.84
■ Wake County	\$3,259,099.74
■ Wayne County	\$227,722.73
■ Wilson County	\$100,660.94

**TOTAL = \$4,190,353.03**

# EEP Strategy for Allocation of Funds Collected for Offset Payments

- Fund projects within the Neuse River Basin in areas of affected local governments
- Fund projects that remove nitrogen input from non-point sources
- Allocate \$330.00/pound for Nitrogen removal for a 30-year period for each project
- Fund projects that the local government plans, designs, constructs, and maintains