

NC Wetlands Restoration Program

- **Non-regulatory program, created 1997**
- **Mission: restoration of watershed functions, with an overall goal of more effective compensatory mitigation (e.g., for NCDOT impacts)**
 - **Streams, wetlands, and riparian buffers**
- **Philosophy: mitigation/restoration projects should be integrated within local watershed planning efforts, with sufficient opportunity for local stakeholders' input**
- **Future: merge with DOT program staff to form *Ecosystem Enhancement Program*, July 2005**

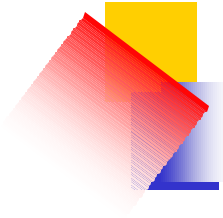




NCWRP Local Watershed Planning

- **Focusing on high-priority Local Watersheds (14-digit HUs)**
 - clusters of two to three HUs, 50 to 200 square miles total area
- **Finishing up 12 statewide; beginning 10 new ones...**
 - within high-priority Regional Watersheds (C.U.s) per NCDOT projected impacts
- Major Tasks/Objectives:
 - **Assess** watershed conditions
 - **Identify** major threats to watershed functions [current and future]
 - **Involve** key local stakeholders, e.g., *resource professionals*
 - **Prioritize** sub-watersheds & project sites
 - **Develop** optimal solutions, including both traditional mitigation projects and non-traditional mg't. strategies
 - **Implement** protection strategies & restoration projects

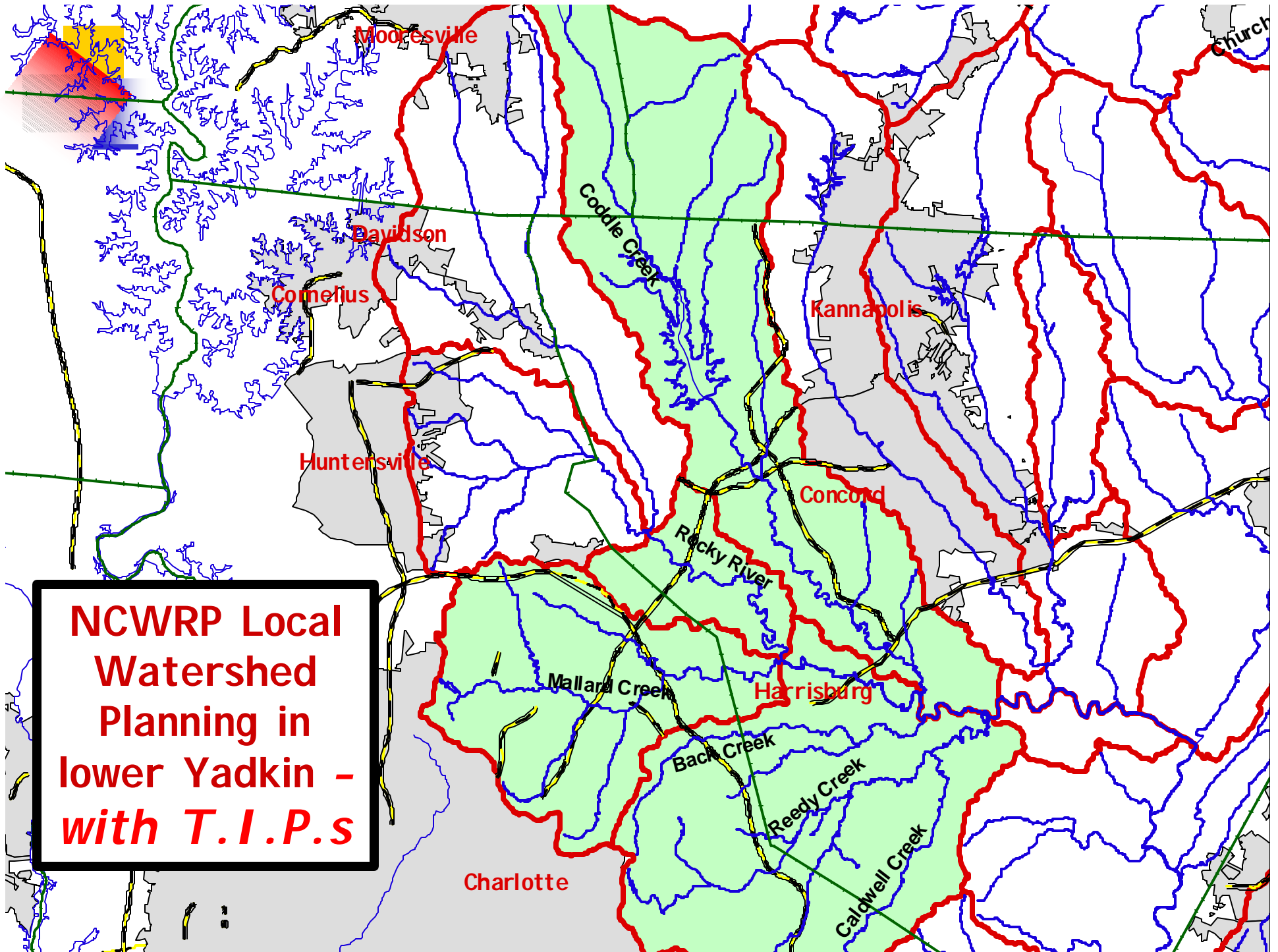




Key outcome of LWP Process

Identification of *willing landowners* with good stream & wetland restoration sites...





NCWRP Local Watershed Planning in lower Yadkin - with T.I.P.s

Lower Yadkin LWP - Timeline

- Phase II (Mactec) Kick-off Meeting - August 2003
- Phase I LWP Final Report (CDM) - Sept./Oct. 2003
- Phase II Preliminary Findings & Recommendations Report (Mactec Task 1) - Final due by Oct. 2003
- First Public Meeting/Outreach - November 2003
- Mactec Detailed Field Assessments and C.U.-wide Screening - Sept. 2003 through March 2004
- Mactec Watershed Improvement Projects Report (Task 2) - April '04
- Mactec Watershed & Sub-watershed Management Plans (Task 3) - July 2004
- Stakeholder Meetings
 - tentative schedule:
 - Sept. 2003
 - Nov. 2003 [1st public meeting]
 - Feb. 2004
 - April 2004
 - June 2004
 - August 2004 [2nd public mtg.]

