



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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State officials provide funding for 37 water resources projects

RALEIGH – The state recently awarded more than \$2.2 million in grants for 37 projects that will help North Carolina towns and counties restore streams, reduce erosion, study future water supplies and benefit other water resources.

The N.C. Division of Water Resources awarded \$2,244,877 as a part of its 2014 spring grant cycle for the Water Resources Development Project Grant Program. Money for the grants was generated by appropriations from the General Assembly.

The division awarded:

- Ashe County New River Soil and Water a \$65,000 grant for a stream restoration project at Bowlin-Peak Creek.
- Bladen County Soil and Water a \$4,000 grant for the Butter-Richardson community drainage study.
- Burgaw a \$25,000 grant for a stormwater management plan.
- Haywood County Soil and Water a \$1,500 grant for a water management project adjacent to Raccoon Creek.
- Haywood County Soil and Water a \$23,948 grant for a stream restoration project on Richland Creek.
- Henderson County a \$199,000 grant for the second phase of a dam removal on the Big Hungry River.
- Jonesville a \$41,750 grant for the second phase of the Yadkin River Greenway Bridge.
- Lenoir a \$50,000 grant for a downtown stormwater facility at Harper Avenue.
- Wilmington a \$45,000 grant for waterfront planning.
- Washington County a \$19,000 grant for the Lake Phelps Hydrologic Study.

The state awarded \$756,788 in funding for the shallow draft navigation channel and lake dredging projects in Brunswick, Carteret, Dare and Mecklenburg counties. A total of \$1,013,891 was awarded to soil and water conservation districts in Alleghany, Alexander, Avery, Buncombe, Lincoln, Macon, McDowell, Polk, Surry, Watauga and Yadkin counties as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The EQIP program is part of the N.C. Natural Resources Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and delivers environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, and reduced soil erosion. For more about EQIP, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nc/programs/financial/eqip/>.

The water resources program provides cost-share grants and technical assistance on a competitive basis to local governments in North Carolina. Applications are accepted for general and recreational navigation, water management, stream restoration, beach protection, land acquisition and development of water-based recreation facilities.

There are typically two grant cycles each fiscal year with application deadlines of July 1 and Jan. 1. Units of local government and local political subdivisions are eligible for these grants. The full list of grant recipients can be found at: http://www.ncwater.org/files/grants/Spring_2014_Grant_Awards.pdf. For more information, contact Jeff Bruton, state-local grant program coordinator with the N.C. Division of Water Resources, at 919-707-9006, or jeff.bruton@ncdenr.gov.

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