



Wildlife & Natural Resource
Stewardship in Planning



Partners for Green Growth

This is a cost-share funding resource offered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) Green Growth Toolbox program. The goal of Partners for Green Growth is to provide support for local government planning projects that consider wildlife and natural resource conservation in land use and development planning, incentives and ordinances.

We encourage you to share your ideas with us ahead of all deadlines.

Funding Summary

For projects that qualify, the Partners for Green Growth program will *reimburse* cost-share funds up to \$20,000 and will provide 80 hours of technical assistance from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) wildlife biologists. Projects that request funds up to \$10,000 are preferred so that we may fund more projects. The funding request can only be up to 65 percent of the entire project cost and 35 percent non-federal in-kind match is required (details below) to make up the remaining total project cost.

Deadlines

Project Idea Submissions (form below) are due by May 31, 2016. Applicants that qualify to submit an invited application will be notified by mid-June. Invited applications are due August 9, 2016. All projects should begin by October 1, 2016 and be completed by September 15, 2017.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local governments (North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities) and Councils of Government. Partnerships between local governments and non-governmental, non-profit (NGO) conservation-related organizations are also eligible. Local government project applications are encouraged.

Important: These funds cannot be used to write or draft an ordinance or regulation (due to legal constraints on State Wildlife Grant funds that are the source for Partners for Green Growth). However time spent on writing or drafting conservation-related ordinances can count as non-federal in-kind match (details below). Funds *can* be used to: gather background or supporting information for an ordinance, create a model ordinance, or to craft conservation development or land use guidelines to be considered by the governing board for adoption. Funds can be used to write plans. Adoption of any plan, incentive, ordinance, or guidance document is *NOT* a condition for reimbursement of funds and is not required under any circumstances.

Purpose and Criteria

This is a program of the NCWRC to support conservation-based land use planning projects by local government entities through a cooperative agreement. Eligible projects will focus on plans, incentives or ordinance methods that would better conserve Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Priority Habitats as defined by the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan (2005) (pages 65, chapters 3,4a and 5 and appendix G). Planning projects should support the principles of wildlife conservation planning detailed in the Green Growth Toolbox (www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth) including, but not limited to, projects such as:

- Removing regulatory barriers to wildlife habitat conservation in local ordinance procedures and requirements. For example, by enabling:
 - Conservation subdivisions that conserve large contiguous areas of wildlife habitat in secondary development growth or rural districts and wetland, floodplain and stream protection in all districts.
 - Higher density, mixed-use development in or near town or city centers and Low Impact Development (LID).
- Creation or improvement of incentives for conservation-based land use and or development through local ordinances.
- An evaluation of opportunities for natural resource conservation overlay districts or voluntary conservation districts based on effective density bonus incentives.
- A wildlife habitat conservation plan to be considered for adoption by the governing board.
- A land use, transportation or other plan draft that considers effective wildlife conservation.
- Implementation of an existing plan for wildlife habitat conservation such as establishing a conservation or natural resources committee or completing a process to measure plan, incentive or ordinance effectiveness.
- Establishment of a local fund to defray the cost of conservation easements or acquisitions.
- Creation of voluntary conservation-based development and land use guidelines to be considered for adoption by the governing board.
- Conducting conservation-based development charrettes for specific areas that have a high conservation value and a high likelihood of development. These results of these charrettes can be provided to developers free of cost.
- Planning projects that reduce development encroachment near permanently conserved areas, like those that support military training.
- Planning that supports conservation of wildlife travel corridors.

GIS Maps

GIS maps of priority wildlife habitat are already available statewide and extensive additional mapping may not be needed for your community. We prefer that GIS mapping costs represent only a minor portion of the funds requested and that GIS mapping time or costs be provided as non-federal in-kind match (details below) to the maximum extent possible. NCWRC biologists can assist you with GIS mapping and provide conservation data layers to your county.

Please see the following for existing wildlife habitat GIS maps:

Conservation Data for Green Growth:

www.ncwildlife.org/Conserving/Programs/GreenGrowthToolbox/ConservationData.aspx

NC Natural Heritage Program and Natural Heritage Data Explorer: <http://ncnhp.org/web/nhp>,
<https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>

Projects that demonstrate a high likelihood for improved conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Priority Habitats are required. Thirty-five percent in-kind match from non-federal sources is required (see below for further information). Preference will be given to projects from communities in areas of high biodiversity where dispersed development is occurring. Landscape level projects, large site projects, or projects that protect military training are preferred.

Please refer to the Green Growth Toolbox (www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth) and to the NC Wildlife Action Plan (2005) (www.ncwildlife.org/plan.aspx) in preparing your project ideas and invited applications. Projects should be able to be completed in one year.

Non-federal In-kind Match Guidelines

At least thirty-five percent non-federal in-kind match is required. Non-federal in-kind match is additional staff time or funding from a non-federal source that is spent on the proposed project. The non-federal in-kind match does not need to be a cash amount. Non-federal in-kind match can be in the form of hours of staff or consultant time expended working on the project that equates to a dollar value based on salary (from non-federal funds). In-kind match in the form of time spent on the project can be attributed to non-staff board members, public input meeting attendees, or volunteers at a rate of \$16.08 per hour. In-kind match is calculated as a proportion of the entire project cost. For example, if \$10,000 is requested from Partners for Green Growth then \$10,000 is 65 percent of the entire project cost and the entire project cost is \$15,384 ($\$10,000 / 0.65$). Thirty-five percent in-kind match is \$5,384 (35% of \$15,384).

Project Idea Submission Form – deadline May 31, 2016

In order for the NCWRC to determine if your project is a good fit for the Partners for Green Growth cost-share funding program, please complete this form and send it to Kacy Cook at kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org by May 31, 2016.

A committee will evaluate project ideas and invite applications for qualifying project ideas by mid-June, 2016.

Invited applications are due August 9th. Our hope is to be able to fund all invited applications. However if demand is high, we may not be able to fund all applications.

Please fill out the form below and thank you for your interest. Multiple ideas can be submitted by the same applicant.

Partners for Green Growth Project Idea Submission

Date: 5/26/2016

Contact Information: Hillary Pace, hillary.pace@chathamnc.org, 919-542-8276

Name of County and or Municipality or Council of Government: Chatham County

Approximate amount of funds to be requested: \$10,000

Estimated non-federal in-kind match amount by source (Please demonstrate that this match is from non-federal sources): Comp Plan (\$324,983.50 total cost, with at least \$25,000 devoted to natural resources, agricultural and parks planning)

Project Idea Checklist

Visit www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth and download the Green Growth Toolbox Handbook to view case studies of local government conservation-based plans, incentives, ordinances, and developments.

Please note that PGG funds *cannot* be used to draft or write official ordinance language, but his can count as non-federal in-kind match. Eligible activities for PGG funding include writing plans, organizing and conducting public and local government meetings, conducting research and gathering information.

Our project would potentially do the following. Check all that apply.

Consider the Green Growth Toolbox principles and conservation GIS data in:

- A conservation plan to be considered for adoption by the governing board.
- A conservation overlay district and or an update of zoning districts.
- A *review* of development ordinances for opportunities to reduce regulatory barriers to conservation and enhance incentives and ordinances for wildlife habitat conservation.
- The drafting of a *model* ordinance.
- A preferred development guide.
- An update of the land use, transportation or comprehensive plan.
- A small area plan (provide location information).
- A park(s) management plan (provide location information).
- The planning of a major development design or charrette (provide location information).
- A plan or ordinance that addresses human-wildlife conflict / nuisance wildlife issues.

Other: Could also be defined as the development of a preferred development concept plan or plans

Project Idea Details

In addition to the main deliverable of your project there may be other deliverables, for example:

- Publishing Conservation Data for Green Growth on your county GIS website and online viewer.
- A public web page dedicated to wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Priority Habitats in your community.
- A guidance document to be used by your planning department or developers that provides guidelines for conservation through specific development ordinances or designs.
- Charrettes for specific large parcels to demonstrate preferred site design.
- A proposed conservation district map.
- A public information campaign that details the number of public meetings and education materials provided.

- Illustrations of context sensitive development in one area of high conservation value and a high likelihood of development
- Presentations for one meeting with the Chatham County Conservation Partnership
- Materials for incorporation into the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan

List of 4 or less primary project deliverables

- Illustrate conventional development and the preferred development pattern in an area that has a high conservation value and high likelihood of development.
- Estimate development and open space acreage and corresponding impacts and benefits of alternative approaches.
- The preferred development pattern will show application of conservation subdivision regulations and key principles of development design that are determined to be important in the study areas per existing plans, comprehensive plan recommendations and a meeting with the CCP.

List of project goals and objectives

List of any project partners and their roles (what they will do)

Chatham County: Chatham County staff is currently leading an effort to update the county Comprehensive Plan. This grant would allow for staff to involve the Chatham County Conservation Partnership in this effort and the production of illustrations and other materials for inclusion into the Comprehensive Plan.

Chatham Conservation Partnership (CCP): The mission of the CCP is to develop and implement strategies for a community conservation vision that builds awareness, protection and stewardship of Chatham County’s natural resources. The CCP consists of over 50 organizations and participants, including federal, state, and local agencies, non-profits, developers and landowners. Active members include the Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Member of the CCP will be invited to two meetings to guide the process. The meeting with the CCP will be devoted to discussing existing conditions, threats and design principles that should be addressed in the proposed study area(s).

Private landowners: County staff will notify landowners in the study area(s) and have one-on-one discussions, as needed, to solicit input on preferred development patterns.

List the roles of local government officials, board members and staff in the project

What will local government officials, board members or staff do as part of your project?

Schedule, prep and attend meetings. (2 days x 2 people)

Assist in identifying location and developing concept design(s) (2 days x 2 people)

Coordination with landowners (1 day)

Other (comp plan duties—environmental and land use section of the Comp Plan)- Staff time is 80% of duties performed by the project manager, Planner II Hillary Pace.

Approximate timeline

Provide a brief timeline of completion dates for stages of the project. All projects should start by October 1, 2016 and be completed by September 15, 2017

July-September: Comprehensive Plan activities (i.e. conduct GIS modeling to produce Green Infrastructure Map). GGP funds will not be utilized for this task.

September-October: Coordinate with county staff, NCWRC, and non-governmental partners (TLC, HRA, etc.) to identify potential study area.

November-December: CCP Meeting: Discuss existing conditions, threats and design principles that should be addressed in the proposed study area(s)

January: Concept Development.

February: Concepts incorporated into draft Comprehensive Plan, resource agencies (members of CCP) comment on draft Plan. If there is an opportunity County staff may attend an additional CCP meeting to present draft plan and concept.

Support for Conservation

Briefly describe the conservation interests or actions of your community and local governing or planning-related board.

Chatham County has been at the forefront of conversation efforts with the participation in the development of the Chatham County Comprehensive Conversation Plan in coordination with the Chatham County Conservation Partnership. The County also hosts the data produced from the Plan on the county GIS website.

The county has had several environmental regulations adopted that are more expansive, comprehensive, and customized to the county's unique environmental features that were designed and implemented to respond to rapid growth pressures. These regulations include:

Watershed Protection- In 2008, the county adopted county-wide riparian buffer regulations that were more stringent than state regulations.

Jordan Lake Buffer Rules- The County adopted these regulations and augmented the riparian buffer standards to double the state required buffer width and extended protection to other natural resources not included in state environmental regulations such wetlands and ephemeral streams.

The County also has in place erosion control standards and stormwater requirements that exceed state required minimums and are customized to the County's natural environment.

The County also adopted a Conservation Subdivision regulations as part of the Subdivision Regulations, which incentives developers to cluster development and retain connected open and natural space. Since its adoption, the County has approved two Conservation Subdivisions.

Summary Project and Budget Narrative

Please describe your project below in 300 words or less. Include a brief description of the activities that will use PGG funds and what you would count as non-federal in-kind match. Please provide the approximate amount of PGG funds that would be requested for GIS mapping.

Background

According to Census estimates Chatham County is the fastest growing county in NC. The county has experienced a growth of 3.38% between 2014 and 2015. Chatham County grew more than 31% between 2000 and 2010. It is expected to grow by 22,000 people by 2035, which would be a growth of 31% (NC OSBM). Despite recent growth pressures the county is predominately rural. Sixty-eight percent of the county is forested and twenty percent is in crops and pasture (USDA Cropscape Data, 2015). The Natural Heritage Inventory (1992) identified 40 significant sites. There is no doubt that the quality of many of these natural communities may have been compromised with recent development. There is also no doubt that unique habitats still exist and could be preserved for generations if the appropriate actions are taken.

Need

Chatham County has taken steps to update its Comprehensive Plan. This will result in a new Future Land Use Map, policy and strategy recommendations that will assist in guiding the location and design of future development. There will also be a mapping exercise that utilizes existing GIS data to identify a high value conservation lands that will be referenced in the Future Land Use Map and associated policies. A few small-scale illustrations of conceptual development will be created during the planning process, however these will be limited to 100-200 acres in size. Policy recommendations will be drawn from the Green Growth Toolbox and other regional and national best practices. The Green Growth Toolbox (GGT) includes some conceptual graphics that represent a “Natural Resource-Based Land Use Pattern” (see Section 5, p. 84) that do well to illustrate more compact land use patterns, however it would be beneficial to the County and to other communities if there were more examples of large-scale illustrations that showed preferred development patterns for a sensitive area and/or wildlife corridor in North Carolina that illustrated the principles contained in the GGT. Grant funds will allow the creation of large-scale concept that could fulfill this need and be Chatham County specific.

Project

The goal would be to build on the Future Land Use plan that will be developed as part of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan (Plan Chatham) by illustrating the preferred development pattern in one area that has a high conservation value and high likelihood of development. This area may be agricultural in nature with strategically important farmland and/or contain a wildlife hub or corridor with existing high quality habitat. The Chatham Conservation Partnership (CCP) will be involved to help identify the key principles to illustrate in the concepts and ensure that the concepts and Comprehensive Plan recommendations are in-line with local conservation goals. Examples of illustrations that demonstrate context sensitive development can be downloaded at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yxvt8rqh0wo0uwn/AAAI0UHLbz1pcXbaVEYhF35ia?dl=0>. The graphic style of these could be replicated and repurposed for the study area(s).

For questions and to discuss project ideas, please contact Kacy Cook, Land Conservation Biologist at kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org or mobile (910) 638-4887.

The application form below is only for your information and should not be completed unless the NCWRC responds to you in mid-June that your Project Idea Submission qualifies.

For those project ideas that qualify, please complete the invited application below, due August 9, 2016. A regional NCWRC Biologist or Educator will be available to assist you with your application.

If your application qualifies for funding, your application text will be placed in a draft contract agreement with NCWRC. **Please be prepared to provide the signature of the chief elected official or other appropriate signatory on the contract for this project.** (NCWRC will sign the contract first after all changes have been approved by both parties).

Partners for Green Growth Invited Application

Date: August 7, 2016

Contact Information: Hillary Pace, Planner III, Chatham County Planning Department. Hillary Pace at hillary.pace@chathamnc.org or 919/542-8276. PO Box 54, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Name of County and or Municipality or Council of Government: Chatham County

Amount of funds to be requested: \$10,000

Also provide the date of any interim reimbursements needed before the final reimbursement at project completion. Each reimbursement requires a project report.

Non-federal in-kind match amount committed: Comprehensive Plan (\$324,983.50 total cost, with at least \$25,000 as match devoted to natural resources, agricultural and parks planning) as well as Staff time of Planner III, 80% of position dedicated to Comprehensive Plan.

Billing Contact (for receipt of funds by check): Vicki McConnell, Chatham County Finance Officer. P O Box 608, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. Vicki.mcconnell@chathamnc.org

Scope of Work

Please detail what you plan to do, how funds will be used and describe the following.

- a. Project goals
 - i. Build on previous work by Chatham County and the Chatham Conservation Partnership as well as the current effort to update the Comprehensive Plan to illustrate the preferred development pattern in an area of the County with sensitive environmental features and a high level of development pressure.
- b. How the project enhances and builds off of any existing local or regional conservation-related plans that will be considered in your project. (Please name the plans and provide links).
 - i. It will help illustrate the principles contained in the Green Growth Toolbox and the local Comprehensive Conservation Plan (<https://chathamconservation.wikispaces.com/Comprehensive+Conservation+Plan>). More importantly it will provide an example of the principles illustrated in

- a designated area within the County that has challenges typical of many growing areas in the North Carolina Piedmont.
- c. The specific permanent conservation lands and or rural areas that could be better protected from the encroachment of dense development through your project and how (name the specific Game Lands, state and local parks or conservation easements).
 - i. The exact location of the project will be decided later, but it will likely benefit on or more of the following natural areas or conservation lands:
 1. Jordan Lake State Park and/or nearby game lands
 2. Big Woods Road Upland Forests
 3. Haw River Aquatic Habitat (and associated conservation lands preserved by the Triangle Land Conservancy, Haw River Assembly or other groups).
 4. The historic Bynum community
 5. Chatham County open space in Bynum
 6. Pokeberry Creek riparian area
 7. NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program Easement on Haw River
 8. Lower Haw River State Natural Area (managed by DNP)
 - d. How and where the project could enhance the connectivity of wildlife habitat between conserved lands and in rural areas.
 - i. Currently R-1 and R-5 zoned areas in the northeastern part of Chatham County allow for residential lots at 1 acre and 3-5 acres in size, respectively. This development pattern can, and has caused, significant fragmentation in the area north and east of Pittsboro. Provisions exist to encourage clustering, however, this effort would serve as a blueprint for identifying key, landscape level open space priorities across multiple parcels that could experience development in the future. The illustration(s) will serve as a guide to elected officials and private interests and result in more context sensitive development.
 - e. How this project could benefit the community, the local economy and any military training installations.
 - i. This effort will seek to address community concerns about loss of forest lands, the need to improve water quality, and about playing a large role as a county as a carbon sink for surrounding urban areas. It will also provide guidance on how governmental, private and non-governmental entities can promote economic development, increase access to open space, and preserve critical natural resources.
 - f. Other expected outcomes.
 - i. Land owners will be invited to participate in the process (Chatham County will lead this effort).
 - g. The activities that NCWRC could provide technical guidance and assistance. For example, mapping, providing information to a committee or board, reviewing planning related documents to provide recommendations
 - i. Providing current mapping and data.
 - ii. Assisting in presenting to the Chatham Conservation Partnership.

- iii. Providing information regarding the presence or potential presence of rare, threatened or endangered species and their specific habitat needs.

Project Budget

Please provide a brief budget narrative that describes approximate fund amounts that will be spent on specific project activities. Please describe the entities that will provide non-federal in-kind match, the source of in-kind match (salary, volunteer time, travel miles), how the match source is not supported by federal funds and the amount of non-federal in kind match.

If an NGO or local government entity is a partner that will receive some of the cost-share funds for the project, please highlight the items in your application that the NGO will complete.

Budget Table #1:

Description	Chatham County (non-federal match)	The Commission NCWRC PGG funds	Sub-Total
Personnel	<p>Comp Plan related match: \$25,000 out of entire comprehensive plan budget dedicated to natural resources, agricultural and parks planning.</p> <p>Total Staff hours on specific duties related to grant: \$1,730 (additional matching funds likely due to attendees at Chatham Conservation Partnership meeting)</p>	<p>Total: \$9,300</p> <p>See Table #2 for detail.</p>	
Fringe Benefits			
Travel		\$700	
Equipment			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Construction			
Other			
Total Direct Charges			
Overhead/Indirect	(can count as match)	(Must be \$0)	
Total	\$26,730	\$10,000	\$36,730

No overhead/indirect costs for this project may be charged to NCWRC (The Commission), but these can count as non-federal in-kind match if funds these costs are not from federal sources.

Budget Table #2:

Task	PGG Funds
Prep and Attend CCP Meeting (2 people)	\$ 2,400
Internal Worksessions	\$ 2,400
Site Analysis and Precedent Research	\$ 1,000
Concept Development and Deliverables	\$ 3,500
Total	\$ 9,300

Project Timeline

A brief project implementation plan and timeline highlighting the roles and responsibilities of any project partners, elected officials, board members, the public or NCDOT, MPO or RPO staff.

- July-September: Comprehensive Plan activities (i.e. conduct GIS modeling to produce Green Infrastructure Map). GGP funds will not be utilized for this task.
- September-October: Coordinate with county staff, NCWRC, and non-governmental partners (TLC, HRA, etc.) to identify potential study area.
- November-December: Chatham Conservation Partnership Meeting to discuss key design elements to be incorporated into concept plan.
- January-February: Concept Development.

Deliverables

Please include the approximate date that deliverables will be completed. If an interim reimbursement is needed, an interim report will be required that details progress on deliverables. If an NGO or local government entity is a partner that will receive some of the cost-share funds for the project, please highlight the items that the NGO will complete. Deliverables must include any interim project and financial reports (required only if an interim reimbursement is requested by the applicant) and a final project and financial report for the final project reimbursement due by September 19, 2017.

- Study Area map with key resources identified
- Chatham County Conservation Partnership Meeting materials (i.e. ppt and basemaps)
- Concept Illustration (s): One or more conceptual diagrams that illustrate the preferred development pattern in an area that has a high conservation value and high likelihood of development. This area may be agricultural in nature with strategically important farmland and/or contain a wildlife hub or corridor with existing high quality habitat. This area will be over 500 acres and could include as much as 3,000 acres. Exact size and location of study area will be determined during consultations with county staff and the NCWRC.