

Due to continued development across the 100 counties of North Carolina, there is an ever-increasing need to address water quality impairments. To address these impairments, the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR), via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), makes grant funds available for planning projects that aim to determine the nature, extent and causes of point and nonpoint source (NPS) pollution problems, and to develop plans to resolve these problems.

The Cross Creek Watershed Study is funded through the EPA's Section 205(j) Grant Program, and will examine existing data for the Little Cross Creek, Cross Creek and Blounts Creek watersheds. The result will be a narrative plan that identifies 9 key elements based on available data, including pollution sources/causes, implementable reduction measures and the necessary resources to address impairments. For elements lacking sufficient data, the plan will outline the information missing, detailing the steps forward to developing a comprehensive study of the entire Cross Creek Watershed.

The outcome of the study is fostering collaboration on future grant pursuits to address overlapping, multi-disciplinary concerns in Fayetteville. The study is being conducted by the Triangle J COG, with support from Sustainable Sandhills, American Rivers, PWC, Fayetteville Stormwater Division and Mid-Carolina COG. A public outreach meeting will be conducted on October 18, 2017, engaging stakeholders across the watershed and documenting feedback on a draft plan. The study will conclude in December with clearly defined actions and specific roles for stakeholder collaboration to pursue funding for implementation in 2018.