

**Report to the North Carolina General Assembly's
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources**



***Report on Quarterly Expenditures through the
North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint
of Funds Allocated in SL 2021-180 Sec. 40.7***

April 30, 2025

Division of Mitigation Services

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Pursuant to SL 2021-180 Sec. 40.7(d)

Department of Environmental Quality
January 31, 2025

Background

This report is submitted to meet the requirements of Session Law 2021-180 Section 40.7(d), as amended by SL 2022-43 Sec. 2 and SL 2024-32 Sec. 5.2, which requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to report on expenditures of funds authorized for stream debris removal and other flood mitigation strategies throughout the state. Specifically, Session Law 2021-180 Section 40.7(d) states:

SL 2021-180 Section 40.7(d):

The Department shall report within 30 days of the end of each fiscal quarter in which funds are expended to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources and the Fiscal Research Division regarding uses of the funds appropriated by this section. The report shall include a cumulative and quarterly listing of projects funded, counties where funded projects were located, and linear feet of streams cleared.

Report Structure

This report summarizes project expenditures through the NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint (Blueprint). The information provided is up to date as of April 30th, 2025.

Blueprint staff began implementing projects with the \$96 million appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2024. To implement projects efficiently and responsibly, DEQ established project partnerships with fellow state agencies that administer programs with overlapping goals. Flood resilience is a complex challenge. Many state agencies and programs have missions that intersect with various aspects of flood resilience. Recognizing these areas of overlap has allowed the Blueprint to efficiently implement much needed resilience projects. By supporting the ongoing flood resilience work of North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM), the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF), North Carolina office of Recovery and Resilience, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDACS), the Blueprint has enabled 56 projects worth over \$65 million for \$25,679,395.00 in costs to the program.

| Partner – Program | Amount | Individual Projects |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – StRAP 2023 | \$ 4,721,991.00 | 32 |
| Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Land Water Fund (21-23) | \$ 9,047,404.00 | 15 |
| NC Emergency Management – 2023 Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund | \$ 3,910,000.00 | 3 |
| Lumberton Recovery and Infrastructure Resilience - NCORR Community Development | \$ 8,000,000 | 6 |

The six Lumberton Recovery and Infrastructure projects represent a range of project types. Two are stormwater system improvements to reduce localized flooding to housing and infrastructure. Three are fortification and retrofits for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure which will minimize the loss of function and the resulting the damage and disruption from storms. One project is the relocation of PHA rental housing from areas that experience chronic flooding to an area outside of the 500-year flood plain.

The 32 StRAP projects funded by the Blueprint are being disbursed through StRAP in the form of grants to local governments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and nonprofits for stream debris removal and sediment removal. This effort benefits communities across the state in preventing future flooding, restoring streams and reducing the risk to life and property. The funding provides for debris removal for over 125 miles of streams.

The 15 Projects Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) projects were selected and funded by the Blueprint to implement flood reduction and floodplain protection projects. The Blueprint funded projects will provide an estimated 465 acre-feet of flood water retention, or 152 million gallons, during flood events.

The three projects funded through the NCEM 2023 Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund focus on infrastructure improvements including:

- Support drainage improvements and stream restoration, including upsizing culverts and floodplain benching, in the City of Greenville.
- Upgrading culverts and increasing conveyance capacity systematically alleviate flooding along Eutaw Creek in the City of Fayetteville.
- Reducing upstream flood risk, by adding two additional box culverts to accommodate stormwater flow and better tie into stream and floodplain restoration where the Little Buffalo Creek crosses under Weatherspoon Street in the City of Sanford.

The following table is a breakdown of projects and expenditures by county:

| County | Projects | Funding (\$) |
|-------------|----------|------------------|
| Avery | 1 | \$ 149,200.00 |
| Beaufort | 8 | \$ 766,789.00 |
| Brunswick | 1 | \$ 344,000.00 |
| Carteret | 1 | \$ 800,000.00 |
| Cumberland | 1 | \$ 910,000.00 |
| Duplin | 3 | \$ 158,000.00 |
| Durham | 1 | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Edgecombe | 1 | \$ 490,000.00 |
| Haywood | 1 | \$ 800,000.00 |
| Henderson | 1 | \$ 604,625.00 |
| Hyde | 1 | \$ 31,000.00 |
| Johnston | 1 | \$ 800,000.00 |
| Jones | 2 | \$ 752,414.00 |
| Lee | 1 | \$ 1,500,000.00 |
| Lenoir | 2 | \$ 777,956.00 |
| Martin | 4 | \$ 1,060,000.00 |
| Mitchell | 1 | \$ 346,000.00 |
| New Hanover | 2 | \$ 885,150.00 |
| Onslow | 1 | \$ 107,600.00 |
| Pamlico | 4 | \$ 534,586.00 |
| Pender | 1 | \$ 334,625.00 |
| Pitt | 1 | \$ 1,500,000.00 |
| Robeson | 7 | \$ 11,332,500.00 |
| Scotland | 2 | \$ 43,000.00 |
| Wayne | 1 | \$ 151,950.00 |

Below is a list of projects and awards funded through the Flood Resiliency Blueprint to date.

| Project Name | Applicant | County | River Basin | Project Type | Supporting Partner | DEQ Award | Projected Construction Start Date | Implementation Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Avery SWCD | Avery SWCD | Avery | French Broad | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 149,200.00 | 12/17/2024 | Currently awaiting feedback from grantee if planned work was affected by Hurricane Helene, and if scope of work will need to be revised based on additional damage caused by Helene. |
| Town of Robersonville | Town of Robersonville | Martin | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 255,000.00 | <i>underway</i> | Removal of debris and securing has been accomplished on 85% of project. |
| Town of Parmele | Town of Parmele | Martin | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 245,000.00 | <i>February 2025</i> | Debris removal underway. |
| Pender Soil & Water Cons District | Pender Soil & Water Cons District | Pender | Cape Fear | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 334,625.00 | <i>TBD</i> | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Town of Rowland | Town of Rowland | Robeson | Lumber | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 500,000.00 | 12/23/2024 | Removal of debris from 21,580 linear feet along Mitchell Swamp. Debris removed from the swamp was mulched and burned off site. Removal of debris from 5,605 linear feet along Persimmon Creek. Debris removed from the creek was mulched and burned off site. Removal of debris from 1,734 linear feet along Bracey Swamp. Debris removed from the swamp was mulched and burned off site. Removal of debris from 3,074 linear feet along Church Street Canal. Debris removed from the canal was mulched and burned off site. |

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| Pamlico SWCD | Pamlico SWCD | Pamlico | Neuse | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 148,810.00 | 11/8/2024 | Began work on November 8, 2024 Completed work on December 19, 2024; 61,500 LF |
| Edgecombe County SWCD | Edgecombe County SWCD | Edgecombe. | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 490,000.00 | TBD | Stream segments have not started nor been contracted on, due to not having the fully executed contract during Quarter 4 of 2024. Once the fully executed contract is received, the SWCD office will open up for bids to be taken on the projects. |
| Mitchell SWCD | Mitchell SWCD | Mitchell | French Broad | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 346,000.00 | 10/29/2024 | Scope of work was updated on December 20, 2024 to adjust planned work to focus on repair activities associated with Hurricane Helene damage. Cane Creek- removal of debris began on 2,650 LF (approx. 75% complete) |
| Martin SWCD | Martin SWCD | Martin | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 185,000.00 | March 2025 | Debris removal is underway. |
| Robeson County Church and Community Center | Robeson County Church and Community Center | Robeson | Lumber | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 140,816.00 | 12/17/2024 | All work has been completed. Removal of debris from 15,918 linear feet along back Swamp Main Canal. Debris removed from canal was mulched offsite. Removal of 2 beaver dams from 3,331 linear feet along segment 2 of Moss Neck Main Canal. Debris removed from the canal was mulched offsite. |
| Robeson County Drainage District 1 | Robeson County Drainage District 2 | Robeson | Lumber | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 132,500.00 | TBD | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Town of Pembroke | Town of Pembroke | Robeson | Lumber | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 159,184.00 | TBD | The Town of Pembroke has |

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| | | | | | | | | completed the RFQ and received responses. The review committee has met but no determination has been made as of yet. Review committee are finalizing their review and completing reference checks. |
| Town of Bear Grass | Town of Bear Grass | Martin | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 375,000.00 | TBD | Sites have been visited with contractors to explain scope of work. Debris Removal should begin in the upcoming few weeks. |
| Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District | Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District | Wayne | Neuse | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 151,950.00 | 12/23/2024 | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Town of Beulaville, N.C. | Town of Beulaville, N.C. | Duplin | Cape Fear | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 33,000.00 | 11/18/2024 | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Town of Magnolia | Town of Magnolia | Duplin | Cape Fear | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 10,000.00 | TBD | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Town of Leland | Town of Leland | Brunswick | Cape Fear | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 344,000.00 | 11/22/2024 | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| New Hanover County | New Hanover County | New Hanover | Cape Fear | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$ 85,150.00 | N/A | <i>Award declined by grantee. Funding available for re-allocation. New project has been identified for reallocation and MOU is awaiting signature.</i> |
| City of Washington | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 14,130.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractors. |
| Ditch ID9 | Town of Vandemere | Pamlico | Neuse | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 123,495.00 | 1/6/2025 | Wetland and riparian buffer delineations are underway for permitting applications. |
| Hasty beside the church Water Creek | Scotland SWCD | Scotland | Lumber | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 35,000.00 | 11/22/2024 | Work began February 2025. |

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| StRAP 1- West 9th 10th | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 4,650.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractors |
| Strap 2 - West 12th 13th | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 5,550.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractors |
| Azalea Behind Church Water Creek | Scotland SWCD | Scotland | Lumber | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 8,000.00 | 11/22/2024 | Work began February 2025. |
| Ditch IDs 14-31 | Town of Vandemere | Pamlico | Neuse | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 171,041.00 | 1/6/2025 | Pond and riparian buffer delineations are underway for permitting applications. |
| Strap 5 - East 9th Street | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 12,600.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractors |
| Ditch ID 10 | Town of Vandemere | Pamlico | Neuse | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 91,240.00 | 1/6/2025 | Pond and riparian buffer delineations are underway for permitting applications. |
| Strap 4 - E 12th 13th | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 4,500.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractor |
| Strap 6 - Bennett Street | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 8,550.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractor |
| Strap 3 - East 13th 14th | City of Washington | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Sediment Removal | NCDACS | \$ 12,000.00 | 12/4/2024 | No on-the-ground work has been performed as of yet. Working on the bid package to send out to potential contractor |

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| Swamp Road Ditch | Hyde SWCD | Hyde | Tar-Pamlico | Infrastructure. | NCDACS | \$ 31,000.00 | 12/13/2024 | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Nickelson Branch | Town of Wallace | Duplin | Cape Fear | Infrastructure. | NCDACS | \$ 115,000.00 | TBD | Project design underway along with USACE evaluations for permitting requirements. |
| Beaufort SWCD | Beaufort SWCD | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Stream Debris Removal | NCDACS | \$132,500 | 1/7/2025 | First quarterly report due 4/30/2025 |
| Little Buffalo Creek MIT | Sanford | Lee | Cape Fear | Infrastructure. | NCDPS | \$ 1,500,000.00 | July 2025 | Project design has been completed and the necessary permits have been secured in order to begin construction. |
| Lyon & Ivy Culvert Replacement | Fayetteville | Cumberland | Cape Fear | Infrastructure. | NCDPS | \$ 910,000.00 | 7/1/2024 | Project is on schedule. Anticipated Completion Date: February 28, 2027 |
| East Fire tower Rd Drainage & Stream Resto. | Greenville | Pitt | Tar-Pamlico | Infrastructure. | NCDPS | \$ 1,500,000.00 | TBD | The project MOA is anticipated to be approved at Greenville's May board meeting. |
| 2022-FRR20 Upper Pigeon River Flood Mitigation | Haywood Waterways | Haywood | French Broad | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | 1/31/2026 | Grantee has secured a purchase agreement for a 73-acre tract necessary for the project, completed pre-acquisition documents, and submitted appraisals to the State Property Office with review expected to be completed before 5/30/25. |
| 2022-FRR26 Adkin Branch Flood Mitigation Phase I Construction | Kinston | Lenoir | Neuse | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 472,750.00 | 10/31/2025 | Phase one of construction is complete. Final construction expected to begin late fall of 2025. |
| 2022-FRR12 South Ellerbe Restoration Project | Durham | Durham | Neuse | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 500,000.00 | 12/30/2025 | It now seems likely that Durham will be unable to accept the DEQ funded award for supplemental work in which case funds will revert to DEQ. Design underway for |

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| | | | | | | | | original flood retention work. |
| 2022-FRR28 Lumberton Loop Five Mile Branch and Saddletree Swamp Confluence | Lumberton | Robeson | Lumber | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | 4/30/2026 | Grantee has secured purchase agreements for six parcels necessary for the project. They have competed pre-acquisition documents and have submitted appraisals to the State Property Office with review expected to be completed before 5/30/25. |
| 2022-FRR29 Maple Street Green Stormwater Improvement Project | Maysville | Jones | White Oak | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 355,600.00 | 11/30/2024 | Design is complete and permits are in hand. Preliminary construction (site preparation) is complete. |
| 2024-051 TCF Schoolfield | The Conservation Fund | Robeson | Lumber | Acquisition | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | Projected Closing date 2/28/2026 | Negotiations with land owners is ongoing. |
| 2024-428 Wilmington - Wisteria and Clearbrook - Restoration | City of Wilmington | New Hanover | Cape Fear | Restoration | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | 6/1/2026 | Project contract under final review. |
| 2024-056 TLC Lowgrounds | Triangle Land Conservancy | Johnston | Neuse | Acquisition | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | Projected Closing date 2/28/2026 | Appraisals are completed and submitted to the State Property Office for technical review. The closing attorney is currently completing title work, and as soon as completed, work on the survey will begin. |
| 2024-038 WRC Big Swamp | NC Wildlife Resources Commission | Robeson | Lumber | Acquisition | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | Closing date to be determined. | Grantee has received Phase II approval from its Commissioners at their December 2025 meeting, as well as survey, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and appraisals. The project must receive approval from both the Joint Legislative |

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| | | | | | | | | Commission on Governmental Operations and the Council of State. Should those approvals be granted, title will be reviewed by the Attorney General's office and closing can be scheduled. |
| 2022-FRR02 Bailey Creek Nature-Based Tributary Improvements | Aurora | Beaufort | Tar-Pamlico | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 704,809.00 | 6/1/2027 | All land agreements in place but for some small parcels with no recorded ownership. Once this issue is resolved, design will continue. |
| 2022-FRR35 Newport River Restoration Initiative Phase II | NCCF | Carteret | White Oak | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 800,000.00 | 7/1/2026 | Design is nearing completion. Conservation agreements have been recorded. |
| 2022-FRR03 Caswell Farm Water Farming Demonstration and Research Project | NCSU | Lenoir | Neuse | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 305,206.00 | 8/31/2026 | Design and permitting completed February 2025. Bidding process for constructing the water farm and pond system is nearing completion with bids to be opened on May 5. |
| 2022-FRR16 Hofmann Forest Water Farming Demonstration and Research Project | NCSU | Onslow | White Oak | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 107,600.00 | 4/30/2025 | Design and permitting complete. Pre-treatment monitoring underway and construction of flood control devices to begin spring of 2025. |
| 2022-FRR61 Whiteville Stormwater Park | Whiteville | Columb. | Lumber | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 396,814.00 | 6/30/2026 | Design is complete and bids have been received. Construction expected summer of 2026. |
| 2022-FRR24 Lower Mud Creek Floodplain Restoration and Flood Reduction Project | Hendersonville | Henders. | French Broad | Flood Risk Reduction | NCLWF | \$ 604,625.00 | 9/30/2025 | Design and permitting complete and conservation agreements have been recorded. |

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| | | | | | | | | Construction expected to begin fall or winter 2025. |
| NCORR_INF01 Pembroke Stormwater/Flooding Improvements | Pembroke | Robeson | Lumber | Infrastructure Stormwater | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 250,000.00 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |
| NCORR_INF02 Fairmont WWTP Improvements | Fairmont | Robeson | Lumber | Critical Infrastructure | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 1,450,498.37 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |
| NCORR_INF03 St. Pauls Stormwater Improvements | St. Pauls | Robeson | Lumber | Infrastructure Stormwater | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 200,000.00 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |
| NCORR_INF04 Maxton Lift Station Improvements | Maxton | Robeson | Lumber | Critical Infrastructure | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 173,924.13 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |
| NCORR_INF05 Lumberton PHA Rental Housing | Lumberton | Robeson | Lumber | Housing | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 5,000,000.00 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |
| NCORR_INF06 Lumberton EOC Legend Rd. Water Supply | Lumberton | Robeson | Lumber | Critical Infrastructure | NCORR – Comm. Dev. | \$ 925,577.50 | TBD | MOA Signed 4/7/2025 |