

Smith Mill Creek Watershed Planning Goals for Implementation

Goal 1	Reduce sediment inputs.
	Target the most significant sources of sediment through capital projects funded through a combination of grant, municipal and other partner funding. Sources have been qualitatively ranked based on severity. The types of projects may include (1) erosion repairs, (2) stream projects (e.g. restoration), (3) stormwater control measures, and/or infrastructure. There are certain larger stand-alone projects, and several "master-plan" opportunities where multiple management practices exist in one general area.
<i>Strategy</i>	Target rural sources of in-stream and upland erosion, particularly in McKinnish Cove and McKinnish Branch. Projects types are the same as Strategy 1, but the primary projects identified are erosion (upland) and stream projects. In addition, other project types should be pursued as a way to make incremental improvements and develop relationships - smaller project examples include fencing, livestocking, gravel road maintenance, small stream or culvert repairs.
	Target low-hanging incremental to moderate erosion and stormwater issues through readily available resources such as (1) maintenance staff time, (2) volunteer resources, (3) private resources. Project types to include both non-structural projects (e.g. planting, invasives, erosion repair, etc.), small scale SCM's (e.g. rain gardens), stream plantings, and other projects that can be funded with readily obtained resources or grant funding.
Goal 2	Reduce instances of flooding and flood impacts.
<i>Strategy</i>	Target known flooding issues through the completion of capital projects and/or maintenance efforts that effectively address identified issues.
Goal 3	Further social goals of education, awareness, equitable distribution of improvements, and community building through watershed-based projects.
<i>Strategy</i>	Target (1) education in schools and/or youth programs, (2) neighborhood and homeowner outreach, (3) business outreach, (4) crowdsourcing opportunities, (5) community projects similar to goal 1, strategy 3, and (6) establishing a presence at community events. Part of the strategy should be to expand/spread efforts across the watershed.
Goal 4	Further scientific understanding of existing watershed conditions, existing SCM effectiveness, as well as analysis of change and potential analysis of future conditions.
	Acquire existing county, city, and citizen data that could not be obtained during the project and process to a useful format.
	Use available resources to complete water chemistry, bacteria, and macroinvertebrate sampling in locations which with either provide isolation of issues, and/or in locations that will provide long term data and a baseline.
<i>Strategy</i>	Assess potential to obtain improved data about watershed hydrology and look for opportunities to tie hydrology assessment to water quality studies.
	Develop citizen and student-based science opportunities to be completed by volunteers.
	Develop strategies to continue data collection on a 5 or 10-year horizon.
Goal 5	Evaluate political and programmatic opportunities that lead to greater support and adoption of water quality enhancing efforts in SMC.
	Assess funding and interest in preservation opportunities including potential overlap with recreational needs in the watershed. Assess MSD, NCDOT, Railroad practices and opportunities to request low cost or cost-neutral modifications to existing standard practice.
<i>Strategy</i>	Pursue public & private partnership opportunities by identifying upcoming projects and initiatives in SMC that have potential overlap with identified watershed plan projects. Assess potential to partner with City and County to develop tracking methods for new project identification. Assess creation of program to offer ordinance education to developers in watershed.
	Compare City and County regulatory programs and how each factors into watershed compatible development.
	Assess MSD, NCDOT, Railroad practices and opportunities to request low cost or cost-neutral modifications to existing standard practice.
	Assess potential to partner with City and County to develop tracking methods for new project identification. Assess creation of program to offer ordinance education to developers in watershed. Additional Notes