



Summary of Accomplishments in 2008-2009

Since 1975, the **Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc.** has been encouraging the citizens of its ten-county area to care for their natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities. Albemarle RC&D Council priorities are set by local residents to meet their needs.

Please take a moment to read this year's annual report, which describes innovative and successful projects that the Council helped implement in its ten-county area. The complete 2008-2009 annual report and 2009-2010 annual plan of work is on the councils' website at www.albemarlrcd.org.

[Albemarle RC&D 2008-2009 Annual Report and 2009-2010 Annual Plan of Work](#)

Some of the Albemarle RC&D Council's achievements in 2009 are summarized below.

Businesses created or retained: **37**
Jobs created or retained: **169**
Forest land and crop land improved: **16,020** acres
Citizens served by projects: **24,300**

On-Going Project Highlights --- Land Management



Perquimans Commerce Centre Shoreline Stabilization and Stormwater Wetlands Project

Storm surge and heavy rain from Hurricane Isabel removed about 30 feet of shoreline bluff in front of the multi-million dollar Community Center in Perquimans County. The county, with technical assistance from Perquimans Soil and Water, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Albemarle RC&D Council has stabilized about 400 ft of

shoreline bluff in front of the Community Center building, and installed about 1000 ft of rock sill in shallow water along the Commerce Centre shoreline (photo above, on page 1).



Native trees, shrubs and grasses were planted along the bluff and shoreline to help stabilize this important piece of public property. A wetland was constructed next to the Perquimans Community Center to help filter stormwater from a paved parking lot and recreational ball fields before it drains into the adjacent Perquimans River (photo at left). Wetlands have also been constructed at two main drain ways to help filter stormwater from future business development. A walking trail has been constructed along the shoreline and through the woods next to the Community Center.

The project is funded through a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and matching funds from Perquimans County.

River Road Middle School Stormwater Wetland and Outdoor Environmental Education Classroom, Pasquotank County

Close to a major U.S. Coast Guard Base and Elizabeth City State University, River Road Middle School (RRMS) is located in one of the fastest growing areas of Elizabeth City. Farm land on all sides of the school is being converted to residential housing. Non-point stormwater runoff from the school and new residential areas is a major concern for water quality because the area drains directly to the Pasquotank River. The stormwater runoff from this area carries N and P fertilizers from recreational fields and lawns. Stormwater is also known to be a major carrier of fecal coliform bacteria, which contaminates the river and negatively affects shellfish harvesting.



A drainage ditch between the RRMS and recreational soccer fields was converted into a living wetland.

The Albemarle RC&D Council partnered with River Road Middle School, Pasquotank Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to construct a stormwater wetland at the school. The wetland will filter stormwater from the school property, about 10 acres of baseball fields and about 15 acres of new soccer fields. Science teachers at the Middle School are using the wetland as an outdoor classroom for biology and environmental education. Results are being assessed through water quality samples, pre & post education surveys and wetland monitoring.

The River Road Middle School wetland project is funded by the North Carolina Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program.

The new wetland next to the RRMS has a handicap accessible pier for classroom instruction and two platforms for water sampling.



On-Going Project Highlights --- Community Development

Perquimans County Community Center



The Albemarle RC&D Council worked with Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department to secure a \$431,125 grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to build a T-ball field, softball field, concession stand, public restroom, skate park and two playgrounds. The

skate park has been completed (photo above). The ball fields, playgrounds, concession stand and restroom will be completed in 2010.

Completed Projects --- Water Management

Perquimans County Water Management Study

- Developed an inventory of drainage sub-basins and surface drainage
- Assisted the county with identifying and obtaining GIS data
- Identified stormwater drainage points, locations where cross-sections are likely, system components needing maintenance, and other factors that would contribute adversely to water quality
- Identified areas to be analyzed in the future for possible use of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Identified Special-Use Water Management Districts.

Grant Agency: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Water Resources Section.

Grant Amount: \$15,000; County Match \$15,000; Total \$30,000

Hurricane Isabel Stream Clean-up Supplemental Funding

- Cleared and snagged woody debris from about 100 miles of streams and canals in 9 counties in the Albemarle RC&D Council's area.
- Project helped protect water quality, drainage and navigation.



Grant Agency: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Water Resources Section.

Grant Amount: Camden County \$9,300; Chowan County \$4,800; Currituck County \$24,000; Gates County \$12,600; Hyde County \$23,100; Pasquotank County \$20,000; Perquimans County \$13,000; Tyrrell County \$9,200; Washington County \$25,400
Total \$141,400

Completed Projects --- Community Development

Plymouth Waterfront Restoration Phase I

On the banks of the Roanoke River, the Town of Plymouth is actively promoting its waterfront to stimulate and diversify its economy, and to encourage water-based recreation for its local citizens and the general public. The downtown riverfront is anchored by the Port O'Plymouth



Civil War Museum at the east end, and the Roanoke River Lighthouse and Maritime Museum at the west end. Riverfront Park, the site of many public events and general public use throughout the year, is located between the two tourist attractions.

The tourist attractions and public events demonstrate the importance of the waterfront to the town's tourism industry and its local citizens. The waterfront also provides many opportunities for the public to enjoy fishing, picnicking and boating on the scenic Roanoke River.

With funding from the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program, the Town of Plymouth:

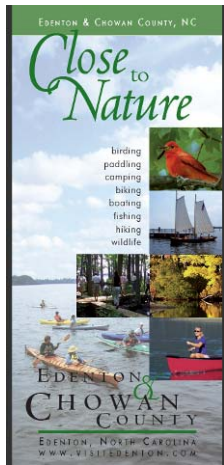
- Repaired 520 ft of existing boardwalk
- Constructed 120 ft of new ADA-compliant boardwalk
- Repaired decking in 2 gazebos
- Renovated a public pavilion
- Repaired and installed new electrical wiring and lighting along boardwalks.

The project also constructed a new boardwalk to link existing piers and boardwalks with housing for senior citizens. Weather resistant lighting was installed along the boardwalks and piers to improve public safety.

The Albemarle RC&D Council provided technical and administrative support to the project.

Grant Agency: CAMA Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program

Grant Amount: \$113,085; Cash Match: \$6,559; Non-cash Match: \$6,006; Total: \$125,650



Chowan County Nature Tourism Brochure

The Albemarle RC&D Council worked with Chowan County to develop a 14-page color brochure with information about nature tourism opportunities in the county including kayaking and canoeing, bird watching, fishing, biking, hiking and camping.

Grant Agency: North Carolina Recreational Trails Program, Adopt-A-Trail Grant

Grant Amount: \$5,000

The Albemarle RC&D Council is a 501(C)(3) private non-profit organization that serves the people of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties

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