

# Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

## Annual Report 2014-2015

Photo: Linda Peterson



### Mission

To wisely conserve natural resources & create opportunities for positive economic & community development.

### Areas of Expertise

- **Constructed wetlands**
- **Outdoor environmental classrooms**
- **Shoreline stabilization**
- **Water management**
- **Watershed management plans**
- **Sustainable energy**
- **Public water access design**
- **Parks & recreation design**
- **Nature tourism**

## Pembroke Creek Park Improvement (Chowan)

Pembroke Creek Park is an important resource for public access to Pembroke Creek and surrounding waters in Chowan County. Residents and visitors use the park for fishing, kayaking and nature tourism. Bass fishing clubs use the park for parking and tournament events every year.

Chowan County received a \$149,720 CAMA grant in 2014 to improve water access to this recreational setting.

During **Phase I**, a vinyl bulk-head was installed to reclaim the eroded shoreline, portions of the boardwalk were replaced, and gravel parking areas with solar lighting and handicapped accessibility were created.

**Phase II** will include the construction of two 50' fishing piers and a handicap canoe/kayak launch platform.

The project will be completed by Fall 2015.

Albemarle RC&D provided grant writing and technical assistance to Chowan County and the Edenton-Chowan Parks and Recreation Department.

**The Return-On-Investment to Chowan County  
for this project was \$23:1.**



Photos: Mark Powell

### 2015 Council Members

#### CAMDEN

Brian Lannon, At-Large

Garry Meiggs

Abner Wayne Staples

#### CHOWAN

Fenton Eure,

Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Smith

#### CURRITUCK

Mike Doxey

W. Harvey Roberts

#### DARE

Louise Hanson

Jim Winebarger, Vice-Chair

#### GATES

Joe Harrell

Natalie Rountree

#### HYDE

Charles Tooley

Dick Tunnell

#### PASQUOTANK

Michele Aydtlett

Maurice Berry, Jr.

Travis Burke

Rodney Johnson, Past Chair

Frankie Meads

Marshall Stevenson

#### PERQUIMANS

Maurice Bunch

Charles Mathews

#### TYRRELL

Nathan T. Everett

Trey Liverman

Rhett White

#### WASHINGTON

Milton Cahoon

Buster Manning

Perlis Nixon



## 2015-2016

### ARC&D Board of Directors

#### Chairman—

**Nathan (Tommy) Everett,**  
Tyrrell

#### Vice Chairman—

**Jim Winebarger,** Dare

#### Secretary/Treasurer—

**Fenton Eure,** Chowan

#### At-Large—

**Brian Lannon,**  
Camden

#### Past Chairman—

**Rodney Johnson,**  
Pasquotank



**Marshall Stevenson** (Pasquotank) was elected to serve as *Treasurer* of the Southeast Regional Association of RC&D Councils and *Special Liaison* for the NC Association of RC&D Councils for 2015-2016.



## *Tyrrell County Waterfront Park*

The original 1.3 acre Veterans' Park in Tyrrell County was developed as a memorial park to honor its veterans. Local residents and visitors used the park for picnicking and fishing, but damage during Hurricane Isabel compromised the safety and public access to the area. The monuments were relocated beside the courthouse, but the park remained in disrepair.

In 2014, Tyrrell County was awarded a \$85,500 grant from the NC Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program (CAMA) to improve public access to the park on the Scuppernong River across from the Columbia waterfront. Renamed the Tyrrell County Waterfront Park, renovations will include a new gazebo, fishing pier and picnic facilities.

Albemarle RC&D assisted Tyrrell County with project design and grant writing. The council is also assisting the county with project management during the construction phase.



*Photo: Mark Powell*

**The Return-On-Investment to Tyrrell County  
for this project was \$15:1.**



*Photo: Mark Powell*

## *Hertford Marina (Perquimans)*

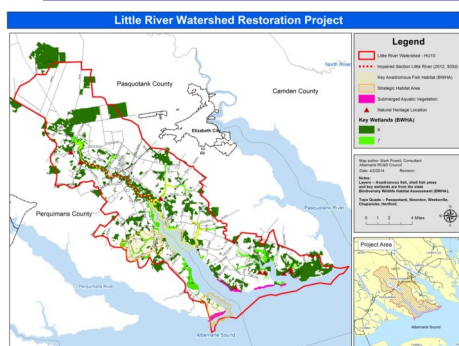
Hertford has a rich colonial and maritime history tied to the Perquimans River and the Albemarle Sound. Waterfront development has been a priority of town leaders to attract visiting boaters to the downtown area.

A new town dock close to the Municipal Park and a nine-slip marina equipped with water, electric service and pump-out lines are now available to attract boaters, increase visitor traffic and support economic development and revitalization of the Historic Waterfront. The project was made possible through grants totaling \$100,000 from the NC Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program (CAMA) and the NC Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG).

Albemarle RC&D assisted the Town of Hertford with the grant applications, design and management support.

**The Return-On-Investment to the Town of Hertford  
for this project was \$28:1.**





## Upper Little River Watershed Restoration

The Albemarle RC&D Council, the Albemarle Commission, Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City Bass Masters & local community groups are working together to restore the Little River Watershed, which includes about eight miles of Impaired river. The 86,000 acre watershed was once rich in biodiversity with key migratory fish areas and swamp forests critical to support native fish and wildlife, mitigate flooding and protect water quality. Over the past decades, agricultural

operations have opened drainage canals that carry sediments and nutrients directly to the river and residential and commercial developments have increased pollution from stormwater runoff. Swamp forest buffers have been eliminated or severely degraded in many river locations in Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties.

To help restore the Little River's biodiversity, the partnership is developing a number of activities including construction of in-stream wetlands on main drainage canals flowing in the Little River, conservation of swamp forest buffers, construction of fish habitat, improved public access, public outreach and environmental education, and monitoring and research.

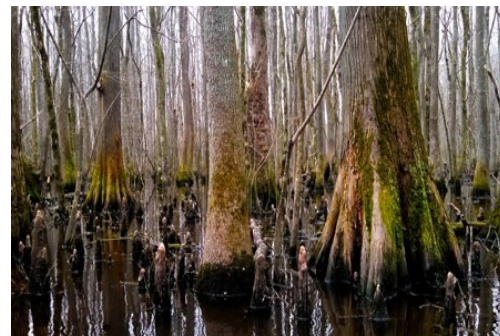


Photo: Mark Powell



Photo: Mark Powell

Through a grant from the NC Division of Water Quality to the Albemarle Commission, a nine-element restoration plan has been developed to guide efforts to restore the Little River watershed. The plan's implementation will address the causes of Impairment by working directly with farmers, homeowners and businesses in the watershed to reduce sediment and nutrients carried by stormwater. An education and outreach program will increase public awareness of and participation in conservation and restoration of swamp forest buffers. A water quality and fisheries monitoring program along the river will help track improvements.

Perquimans County has established a voluntary program for landowners to conserve their swamp forests, which help keep sediment and nutrients from entering the river, help mitigate flooding and provide key habitat for native fish and wildlife. Pasquotank County is developing a similar program for landowners on the Pasquotank side of the Little River.

## Clearing and Snagging in Northeast NC

Recent storms and tornadoes in the region caused significant damage to drainage systems, which increased flooding in many areas. Albemarle RC&D partnered with local Soil and Water Conservation districts to obtain \$250,000 from the NC Division of Water Resources to clear and snag local canals, streams and rivers.

In the Albemarle region, 3 counties were awarded \$14,000, and 7 counties received \$10,000 to remove trees and other debris. In Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank Counties, sections of Burnt Mill Creek, Upper Perquimans River and the Little River were cleared of debris.

**The Return-On-Investment to each county in the Albemarle region ranged from \$8-\$37:1.**



Pasquotank & Perquimans Counties provided funds to remove over 400 tires and trash from the river.

Photo: Dwayne Hinson

## Circle of Diamonds

**Albemarle RC&D received the Enhanced membership designation in 2015 by the National RC&D Association for the sixth year in a row!**

**The Circle of Diamonds Program recognizes exemplary governance practices and high management standards. As one of only 25 RC&D Councils (out of 375 nationwide) to qualify for Enhanced membership, "the policies & procedures of Albemarle RC&D make it a model for other organizations that strive to serve their communities and be good stewards of resources entrusted to them by their partners and communities."**

## *Camden High School Wetlands and Outdoor Classroom*

Albemarle RC&D is working with Camden Soil and Water Conservation District and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop an outdoor environmental education classroom at Camden High School. The wetland would help filter stormwater from school buildings and recreational fields. Pending grant applications will be announced in Fall, 2015.



*Photo: Brian Lannon*

### **Return on Investment**

**For every dollar invested, Albemarle RC&D delivered the following return on recent projects:**

<b>Pembroke Creek Park Improvement</b>	<b>\$ 23</b>	<b>Hertford Marina</b>	<b>\$28</b>
<b>Tyrrell County Waterfront Park</b>	<b>\$ 15</b>	<b>Plymouth Waterfront (III)</b>	<b>\$ 6</b>
<b>Clearing and Snagging</b>	<b>\$ 8-37</b>		

### **Albemarle RC&D offers a variety of services**

<b>Technical assistance</b>	<b>Grant Writing</b>	<b>Educational Outreach</b>
<b>Planning assistance</b>	<b>Project Management</b>	<b>Concept Development</b>

## ***How can we help you?***

***For more information, please contact Linda Peterson at 252-482-7437 x120.***

## **Thanks to our 2014-2015 Partners**

Camden County	Albemarle Commission
Chowan County	Town of Hertford
Currituck County	Town of Plymouth
Dare County	Camden SWCD
Gates County	NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Hyde County	NC Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program
Pasquotank County	NC Division of Water Resources
Perquimans County	NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
Tyrrell County	Edenton/Chowan Recreation Department
Washington County	Camden High School
Pasquotank SWCD	Elizabeth City State University

*All programs and services of the Albemarle RC&D Council are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, disability or political beliefs.*