

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide standards and guidance for the management of stormwater runoff from development in Wake County's jurisdiction. This manual provides support to Articles [9](#), [10](#), [11](#) and [14](#) of the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and applicable State regulations which establish minimum requirements to address impacts of stormwater runoff associated with new development and expansions. It is fully incorporated into the County's UDO under [UDO Section 9-23](#).

Note, this design manual is considered a "living document" and updates will be made as needed to incorporate regulatory and programmatic changes.

Wake County has adopted and enforces the Neuse River Basin requirements within both the Neuse and Cape Fear River basins. Both residential and non-residential developments must adhere to the Neuse Rules requirements for nutrient management and riparian buffers. The Neuse Stormwater Rule limits nutrient runoff from new development projects and is implemented by local governments that are named in the Rule. A few local governments (including Wake County) were included in the earlier version of the Rule and will continue to implement the older version of the Rule (15A NCAC 02B .0235) until they start implementing the new Rule (tbd). Proposed projects located within the Falls Lake watershed must adhere to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (Falls Lake Rules).

While the implementation of the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (Jordan Lake Rules) for new development has been placed on hold by the State legislature, projects within the Jordan Lake watershed shall comply with the Neuse Stormwater rule for nutrient loading. The Jordan Lake riparian buffer rules are effective and shall apply. The Jordan Lake new development rules shall become effective and enforceable upon the end of all applicable legislative delays.

There are seven water supply watersheds within the jurisdiction of Wake County: Cape Fear (Lillington and Sanford), Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, Little River, Richland Creek, Smith Creek, and Swift Creek. Wake County elected the low-density option under the State Water Supply Watershed regulations and the associated requirements are found throughout the zoning provisions of the County's ordinance. Development in the Swift Creek Water Supply Watershed is also subject to the requirements of the [Swift Creek Land Management Plan](#).

Wake County requires "volume-control" stormwater management with target curve number runoff volume limits for residential development, as well as a peak flow management and a downstream assessment requirement for both residential and non-residential developments. Using Wake County Target Curve Number Module is required to demonstrate compliance with this requirement, if applicable.

Wake County requires the use of the Wake County Hybrid Stormwater for all stormwater management submittals, with the exception for submittals for Falls Lake – which requires the SNAP Tool required – and individual lot stormwater deviations. For each regulatory requirement, Wake County adheres to design standards accepted by the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ),

although additional County specific requirements may apply. In the case of any conflict between County and State standards or requirements, the more stringent shall apply.