ONE WATER
WAKE COUNTY

Frequently Asked Questions

What is One Water?

One Water is an approach that connects water resources to broader community goals. It aims to manage water resources as well as the local economy and public well-being. One Water involves many government agencies working together to plan and implement:

- Water infrastructure (water supply and waste treatment facilities, and stormwater and flood management projects)
- Policies and codes (such as those protecting public health and the environment)
- Program operations that administer community services



How is One Water different from traditional water management?

One Water starts with the recognition that all water is valuable. Clean and abundant water supports:

- healthy communities
- businesses
- natural resources
- agriculture

Water should be managed in a way that upholds these values. One Water also considers economic, environmental and social benefits at the same time.

Why did Wake County develop a One Water Plan?

Clean water is not a given.

There are many challenges that increase water unpredictability. Wake County has the highest growth rate in the state. Population increases and unpredictable weather impact the quality and quantity of our water resources.

Wake County developed a One Water Plan to address these challenges proactively. We're connecting management activities to these broader community needs so that future generations have a clean and abundant water supply.

Learn more: **wake.gov/OneWater**



How can One Water help address the challenges posed by a rapidly growing population in Wake County?

Under the One Water approach, the County coordinates many of its programs with local, regional, and national stakeholders. This includes each of the County's 12 municipalities as well as state, federal, and non-profit organizations and private businesses. The coordination looks at programs such as:

- onsite wastewater
- groundwater wells
- stormwater and watershed management
- flood protection
- soil and water conservation
- health and human resources
- parks and recreation
- open space
- planning
- housing affordability
- community revitalization

The One Water Plan includes strategies developed collaboratively that are predicted to be successful in addressing impacts of growth and future climate extremes.

How are wastewater and stormwater valuable resources?

Stormwater and wastewater can be captured and reused for irrigation and other non-potable uses. These uses could include toilet flushing and industrial make-up water for boiler systems. Reusing water helps conserve valuable potable water resources that can then be used for drinking water, cooking, and cleaning.

How can I stay informed or participate in developing the One Water Plan?

Visit the project website to sign up for the One Water newsletter. We also encourage you to visit the website periodically to learn about our progress.

wake.gov/OneWater



Learn more: **wake.gov/OneWater**