

1 Goals

The Beaufort Watersheds partners seek to utilize various stormwater reduction techniques to reduce stormwater runoff by **0.088 gallons per square foot**. This will be achieved through targeted stormwater retrofits that infiltrate stormwater before it reaches the regions surface waters. Mimicking natural drainage processes protects life and properties from flooding, improves the aesthetics of urban areas and maintains the water quantity and quality requirements of receiving water bodies. By addressing stormwater, this plan will directly mitigate pathogenic pollution. The plan relies on community involvement from partners and the community. The plan therefore includes community education opportunities to demonstrate how surface runoff pollutes the waterways and how volume reduction will work to restore water quality.

1.1 PRIMARY GOAL

The goal of this plan is to improve water quality within the Beaufort region, and will be accomplished by combining low-cost, high-yield strategies such as community outreach initiatives and lot level retrofit projects that reduce the impact of impervious surface by mimicking natural hydrology to reduce flooding, protect water quality, and provide the community with clean, usable waters. **This goal will be accomplished over the coming 30 years by achieving objectives and management actions identified below.** Over time, reductions in the volume of stormwater runoff will be achieved through implementation of this plan and will result in measurable water quality improvements, realized. This restoration plan uses the innovative approach of reducing runoff volumes within the Beaufort region watersheds to reduce existing water quality impairments and restore water quality. As with other plans that incorporate this volume reduction philosophy, this plan emphasizes six restoration objectives to accomplish its goals (Table 4-1).

Table 4-1. The primary goal of the watershed management plan and the objectives.

Primary Goal	
<i>Restore impaired water quality in three Beaufort Watersheds.</i>	
OBJECTIVES	
1	Data collection and analysis is conducted to accomplish the plan objectives.
2	New development and redevelopment does not create additional water quality impairments.
3	Stormwater reduction techniques are applied on public properties.
4	The volume of stormwater runoff is reduced from existing private land uses.
5	Periodic monitoring and review is conducted to ensure the goal and objectives of the plan are being met.
6	The community is educated about stormwater pollution and volume reduction needs and engaged in accomplishing the plan objectives.

1.1.1 Objective 1

This objective seeks to conduct and organize research to aid watershed decision makers in implementing the best course of actions based on the most up-to-date data.

Objective 1. Data collection and analysis is conducted to accomplish the plan objectives.

Action #	Specific Action
1-1	Seek funding to conduct a thorough analysis of the region's soils to determine the region's potential for infiltration, which will be of value to both existing and new development, the town, and future stormwater reduction projects.
1-2	Seek funding to conduct more thorough analysis of water quality and quantity, discharge characteristics, and water table height. Utilize findings to aid in future land management and retrofit decisions to best use the natural hydrology.
1-3	When possible, encourage and work with local researchers, organizations, and academia to conduct research that would align with the needs of the plan.
1-4	If necessary, collate past, present, and proposed research into a single source or database to make data analysis and research easier for future needs.

1.1.2 Objective 2

This objective to ensure that new development and redevelopment do not produce additional water quality impairments to the watershed.

Objective 2. New development and redevelopment does not create additional water quality impairments.

Action #	Specific Action
2-1	A subcommittee will review existing town codes and ordinances to determine impediments to low impact stormwater designs for new development and redevelopment. The findings will be presented to the Town with any suggested amendments and discussion of any potential incentive plans (see Appendix F for various engagement plans).
2-2	The Town will determine the need for a locally adopted stormwater management program to supplement gaps in the state's stormwater program and the Town's needs. Some gaps identified thus far include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redevelopment• Smaller projects not covered under the State's Stormwater Program• Oversight of installation and maintenance of State permitted systems

1.1.3 Objective 3

The volume of stormwater runoff being transported over land to waterways needs to be reduced to restore water quality and the aim is to reduce the volume of stormwater conveyed to levels that occurred prior to the baseline year of 1993. By focusing one of the objectives on efforts at public lands and conveyance systems, the Town can demonstrate commitment to improving watershed health to the community.

Objective 3. Stormwater reduction techniques are applied on public properties.

Action #	Specific Action
3-1	Identify stormwater reduction measures town streets, rights-of-way, buildings, parks, parking lots, drainage systems, and other public properties. Prioritize retrofits at public buildings and properties that can serve as demonstration sites of stormwater retrofits.
3-2	Evaluate existing stormwater systems on public properties for potential volume reduction enhancements, and if feasible, retrofit them to achieve volume reduction.
3-3	Secure funds for retrofits at public properties.
3-4	Incorporate, where practical, Green Street Designs (see Appendix G) into future capital improvements of town streets.
3-5	Pursue strategy with N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) to incorporate retrofits into highways. Pursue strategy with DOT that any new road upgrades or maintenance plans include plans for reducing runoff.

1.1.4 Objective 4

This objective is intended to address existing stormwater runoff from private land use by identifying and promoting cost effective strategies private residence and businesses can incorporate.

Objective 4. The volume of stormwater runoff is reduced from existing private land uses.

Action #	Specific Action
4-1	Identify retrofit sites with private partners, prioritizing sites by potential for volume reduction cost-benefit, such as sites identified as exceptional because of the physical and natural characteristics, accessibility, cost, public outreach opportunity, and current land uses.
4-2	Seek funding to pay for stormwater retrofit projects that have been identified.
4-3	Work with governmental agencies and NGOs to secure grants to provide funding to install lot-level, low-cost retrofits that disconnect impervious surfaces and enhance stormwater infiltration.
4-4	Provide landowners incentives to disconnect impervious surfaces or minimize stormwater runoff from their property (see Appendix F for various strategies).
4-5	Explore opportunities with Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP).

1.1.5 Objective 5

Accomplishing the actions in this plan requires monitoring of performance of the plan and projects that are implemented. Records should be maintained on the progress of the plan. Progress made in achieving water quality improvements will be measured. This plan will be adapted as necessary based upon the results of this monitoring.

Objective 5. Periodic monitoring and review is conducted to ensure the goal and objectives of the plan are being met.

Action #	Specific Action
5-1	Maintain an inventory and monitor performance of stormwater reduction retrofits that have been installed within the watersheds.
5-2	Conduct yearly, scheduled assessment of the plan and progress made to date with the project team.
5-3	Update the plan every five years based upon findings from water quality data and the status of implementation and findings from yearly assessment review of plan implementation (see Action 5-1).
5-4	Document the volume of stormwater reduced by each retrofit by utilizing the <i>Runoff Reduction Calculator Tool</i> or other appropriate volume calculation methodology, which will be maintained by the Town.

1.1.6 Objective 6

Community education will be a necessary component to achieving the primary goal of this plan. Education of all members of the community including residents, property owners, developers and others can help ensure understanding of the issues and need for action.

Objective 6. The community is educated about stormwater pollution and volume reduction needs and engaged in accomplishing the plan objectives.

Action #	Specific Action
6-1	Collaborate with partners to implement education and engagement activities for property owners, businesses, and K-12 students and their families.
6-2	Provide technical training opportunities for planners, engineers, developers, landscapers and local government staff on techniques to reduce volume of stormwater within the town.
6-3	Work with existing water quality outreach professionals, including: North Carolina Coastal Federation, UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Scientific Research & Education Network (SciREN), and N.C. Coastal Reserve on a stormwater education initiatives.
6-4	Include education signage at select retrofits and place emphasis on highlighting the town's commitment to native vegetation planting.