

# Nature-Friendly Planning



with the

# GREEN GROWTH TOOLBOX





**MORE THAN 40 SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE FEDERALLY ENDANGERED OR THREATENED, AND CLOSE TO 200 SPECIES ARE STATE LISTED.**

# why Green Growth?

North Carolina is facing unprecedented population growth and unsustainable land development patterns.

- 🌿 Over the next 20 years, 3 million new people will move to North Carolina.
- 🌿 We are developing land faster than our population is growing—two acres of land are developed for each new resident that moves to North Carolina.
- 🌿 Currently, more than 125,000 acres of forests and fields are developed each year—an area the size of Winston Salem and High Point combined.

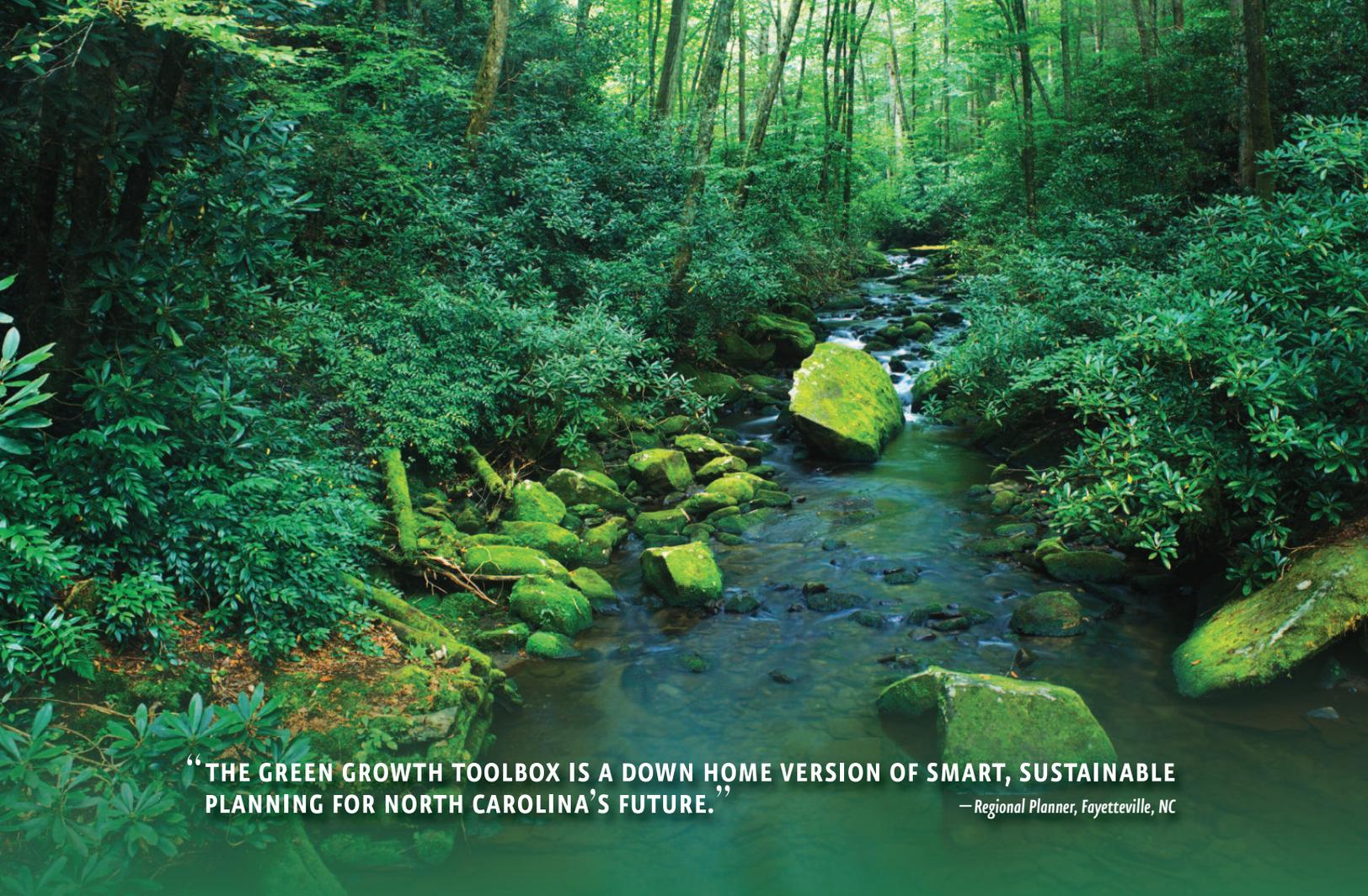
North Carolina's challenge is to build nature friendly communities that conserve wildlife habitats alongside new development.



This is a challenge that planners, developers, and biologists must meet together.

The **Green Growth Toolbox** provides a way for North Carolina's communities to meet this challenge—to conserve our most unique natural assets while continuing to grow.





**“THE GREEN GROWTH TOOLBOX IS A DOWN HOME VERSION OF SMART, SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR NORTH CAROLINA’S FUTURE.”**

*— Regional Planner, Fayetteville, NC*

# what is the **Green Growth Toolbox**?

**Green Growth** is a nature-friendly way of developing communities. It means protecting your community's important natural assets while building new homes, businesses, and shopping centers.

**The Green Growth Toolbox** is a technical assistance tool designed to help your community plan for growth in a way that will:

- 🌿 Protect important species and habitats
- 🌿 Generate economic and social dividends
- 🌿 Enhance recreation opportunities
- 🌿 Attract new development

Make your community a known environmental leader.

The **Green Growth Toolbox** consists of a handbook, GIS dataset, and website.

The **Green Growth Toolbox** can help your community:

- 🌿 Understand where important wildlife habitats are located in your community
- 🌿 Create land use plans and policies that balance future development with natural resource protection
- 🌿 Design development projects that will protect wildlife habitat alongside built areas





**GREEN GROWTH WILL PAY ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIVIDENDS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME—DIVIDENDS THAT OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN WILL ENJOY.**

# benefits of Green Growth

**Green Growth** can help YOUR community...

- 🌿 Protect your most unique natural assets—forests, wetlands, fields, streams, fish and wildlife.
- 🌿 Create healthy communities by maintaining healthy ecosystems.
- 🌿 Attract growing numbers of businesses that prioritize environmental quality and natural amenities when deciding where to relocate.

Give your children and grandchildren the opportunity to grow up playing outdoors and learning about nature.

- 🌿 Generate economic returns from ecosystem services—such as clean water, clean air, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, and flood control.
- 🌿 Bring in tourist dollars from nature-based recreation opportunities.
- 🌿 Reduce costs of community services from poorly planned residential development.





**LEAVE A GREEN LEGACY. START USING THE GREEN GROWTH TOOLBOX TODAY!**

# how to use **The Green Growth Toolbox**

1. Download the handbook and GIS dataset from the project website:  
<http://www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth/>
2. Local governments and partners can sign up for a daylong training workshop. In a Green Growth Toolbox workshop, you will learn about:
  - ✂ Priority wildlife habitats and species in your community
  - ✂ How to interpret the Green Growth Toolbox dataset
  - ✂ How to use conservation data in land use planning
  - ✂ Example land use plans, ordinances, and development projects that are helping communities achieve green growth
3. Local governments can request technical guidance on topics such as:
  - ✂ Creating habitat conservation maps for local plans
  - ✂ Integrating Green Growth goals and objectives into land use plans
  - ✂ Designing nature-friendly development projects

To sign up for a workshop or technical guidance, email the Green Growth team at [greengrowth@ncwildlife.org](mailto:greengrowth@ncwildlife.org)





**THE GREEN GROWTH TOOLBOX CAN HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND DECISION MAKERS, ENABLING US TO COOPERATIVELY CONSERVE OUR STATE'S NATURAL ASSETS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

# Green Growth: Nature-Friendly Planning

Local land use plans have a profound impact on your community's natural resources.

Local land use policies that balance natural resource protection with land development will create communities that, fifty years from now, are attractive, sustainable, and desirable places to live.

The **Green Growth Toolbox** provides information on the location of important natural resources in your community, and offers voluntary suggestions on how to conserve these resources through land use planning.

The **Green Growth Toolbox** was designed to enhance **your** community's decision making process.

By using the **Green Growth Toolbox** today, your community can maintain the green spaces that will attract economic opportunity tomorrow.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS BY

**FRONT COVER: Painted Bunting**  
Brady Beck

**INSIDE FRONT COVER: Loggerhead sea turtle**  
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

**PAGE 1, TOP: Winston Salem skyline**  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**PAGE 1, CENTER: Busy N.C. sidewalk**  
N.C. Div. of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

**PAGE 1, BOTTOM: Suburban sprawl**  
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**PAGE 2: Mountain forest**  
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**PAGE 3, TOP: Charlotte trolley**  
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**PAGE 3, CENTER: Belted kingfisher**  
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**PAGE 4: Boy with binoculars**  
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**PAGE 5, TOP: Brook trout**  
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**PAGE 6: Raleigh, N.C.**  
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

**PAGE 9, BOTTOM: Swallowtail butterfly**  
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