



Wildlife & Natural Resource
Stewardship in Planning



Partners for Green Growth

This is a cost-share funding resource offered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) Green Growth Toolbox program. The goal of Partners for Green Growth is to provide support for local government planning projects that consider wildlife and natural resource conservation in land use and development planning, incentives and ordinances.

We encourage you to share your ideas with us ahead of all deadlines.

Funding Summary

For projects that qualify, the Partners for Green Growth program will *reimburse* cost-share funds of \$10,000 to \$20,000 and will provide 80 hours of technical assistance from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) wildlife biologists. Projects that request funds up to \$10,000 are preferred so that we may fund more projects. The funding request can only be up to 75 percent of the entire project cost and 25 percent non-federal in-kind match is required (details below) to make up the remaining total project cost.

Deadlines

All projects should begin by July 1 or October 15th and be completed in 18 months or less. For project ideas that qualify, final applications will be invited and a contract agreement will be made from the contents of the final application. **Project Idea Submissions are due May 15, 2023.** Invited applications will be due June 5th.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local governments (North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities) and Councils of Government. Partnerships between local governments and non-governmental, non-profit (NGO) conservation-related organizations are also eligible. Local government project applications are encouraged.

Important: These funds cannot be used to write or draft an ordinance or regulation (due to legal constraints on funds that are the source for Partners for Green Growth). However time spent on writing or drafting actual conservation-related ordinances can count as non-federal in-kind match (details below). Funds *can* be used to: gather background or supporting information for an ordinance, create a model ordinance, or to craft conservation development or land use guidelines to be considered by the governing board for adoption. Funds can be used to write plans. Adoption of any plan, incentive, ordinance, or guidance document is *NOT* a condition for reimbursement of funds and is not required under any circumstances.

Requirements:

1. We must comply with federal funding policies, which do not allow for project extensions. As such projects need to meet interim report or final report deadlines in order to reimburse any of the funding to the local government.
2. A secondary staff member must be available to take on management of the project should the original applicant / project manager change jobs. This will help to minimize delays in projects if staff members change jobs.
3. Interim reports must demonstrate the project is proceeding on schedule and deliverables are met.
4. Regular meetings must be held with NCWRC to discuss progress and the contract timeline.
5. The project principal and any consultants must have either taken the Green Growth Toolbox workshop or demonstrate a background in natural resources conservation planning.
6. ***(Invited final applications only) Please provide proof of review and approval of this final application by your Board of Commissioners (See the end of this document for a support statement and signature line).***

Purpose and Criteria

This is a program of the NCWRC to support conservation-based land use planning projects by local government entities through a cooperative agreement. Eligible projects will focus on plans, incentives or ordinance methods that would better conserve Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Priority Habitats as defined by the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan (2015). Planning projects should support the principles of wildlife conservation planning detailed in the Green Growth Toolbox (www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth) including, but not limited to, projects such as:

- Removing regulatory barriers to wildlife habitat conservation in local ordinance procedures and requirements. For example, by enabling:
 - Conservation subdivisions that conserve large contiguous areas of wildlife habitat in secondary development growth or rural districts and wetland, floodplain and stream protection in all districts.
 - Higher density, mixed-use development in or near town or city centers and Low Impact Development (LID).
- Creation or improvement of incentives for conservation-based land use and or development through local ordinances.
- An evaluation of opportunities for natural resource conservation overlay districts or voluntary conservation districts based on effective density bonus incentives.
- A wildlife habitat conservation plan to be considered for adoption by the governing board.
- A land use, transportation or other plan draft that considers effective wildlife conservation.
- Implementation of an existing plan for wildlife habitat conservation such as establishing a conservation or natural resources committee or completing a process to measure plan, incentive or ordinance effectiveness.
- Establishment of a local fund to defray the cost of conservation easements or acquisitions.

- Creation of voluntary conservation-based development and land use guidelines to be considered for adoption by the governing board.
- Conducting conservation-based development charrettes for specific areas that have a high conservation value and a high likelihood of development. These results of these charrettes can be provided to developers free of cost.
- Planning projects that reduce development encroachment near permanently conserved areas, like those that support military training.
- Planning that supports conservation of wildlife travel corridors.

GIS Maps

GIS maps of priority wildlife habitat are already available statewide and extensive additional mapping may not be needed for your community. We prefer that GIS mapping costs represent only a minor portion of the funds requested and that GIS mapping time or costs be provided as non-federal in-kind match (details below) to the maximum extent possible. NCWRC biologists can assist you with GIS mapping and provide conservation data layers to your county.

Please see the following for existing wildlife habitat GIS maps:

Conservation Data for Green Growth:

www.ncwildlife.org/Conserving/Programs/GreenGrowthToolbox/ConservationData.aspx

NC Natural Heritage Program and Natural Heritage Data Explorer: <http://ncnhp.org/web/nhp>, <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>

Projects that demonstrate a high likelihood for improved conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Priority Habitats are required. Twenty-five percent in-kind match from non-federal sources is required (see below for further information). Preference will be given to projects from communities in areas of high biodiversity where dispersed development is occurring. Landscape level projects, large site projects, or projects that protect military training are preferred.

Please refer to the Green Growth Toolbox (www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth) and to the NC Wildlife Action Plan (2015) (www.ncwildlife.org/plan.aspx) in preparing your project ideas and invited applications. Projects should be able to be completed in one year.

Non-federal In-kind Match Guidelines

At least twenty-five percent non-federal in-kind match is required. Non-federal in-kind match is additional staff time or funding from a non-federal source that is spent on the proposed project. The non-federal in-kind match does not need to be a cash amount. Non-federal in-kind match can be in the form of hours of staff or consultant time expended working on the project that equates to a dollar value based on salary (from non-federal funds). In-kind match in the form of time spent on the project can be attributed to non-staff board members, public input meeting attendees, or volunteers at a rate of \$16.08 per hour. In-kind match is calculated as a proportion of the entire project cost. For example, if \$10,000 is requested from Partners for Green Growth then \$10,000 is 75 percent of the entire project cost and the entire project cost is \$13,333 ($\$10,000 / 0.75$). Twenty-five percent in-kind match is \$3,333 (25% of \$13,333).

Project Idea Submission Form

In order for the NCWRC to determine if your project is a good fit for the Partners for Green Growth cost-share funding program, please complete this form and send it to Kacy Cook at kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org and Brooke Massa at Brooke.Massa@ncwildlife.org

A committee will evaluate project ideas and invite applications for qualifying project ideas.

Please fill out the form below and thank you for your interest. Multiple ideas can be submitted by the same applicant.

Date:

Contact Information:

Name of County and or Municipality or Council of Government:

Approximate amount of funds to be requested:

Estimated non-federal in-kind match amount by source (Please demonstrate that this match is from non-federal sources):

Alternate project principal in the event of staff changes:

Project Idea Checklist

Visit www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth and download the Green Growth Toolbox Handbook to view case studies of local government conservation-based plans, incentives, ordinances, and developments.

Please note that PGG funds *cannot* be used to draft or write official ordinance language, but this can count as non-federal in-kind match. Eligible activities for PGG funding include writing plans, organizing and conducting public and local government meetings, conducting research and gathering information.

Our project would potentially do the following. Check all that apply.

Consider the Green Growth Toolbox principles and conservation GIS data in:

- A conservation plan to be considered for adoption by the governing board
- A conservation overlay district and or an update of zoning districts
- A *review* of development ordinances for opportunities to reduce regulatory barriers to conservation and enhance incentives and ordinances for wildlife habitat conservation
- The drafting of a *model* ordinance
- A preferred development guide

- An update of the land use, transportation or comprehensive plan
- A small area plan (provide location information)
- A park(s) management plan (provide location information)
- The planning of a major development design or charrette (provide location information)
- A plan or ordinance that addresses human-wildlife conflict / nuisance wildlife issues

Other:

Project Idea Details

In addition to the main deliverable of your project there may be other deliverables, for example:

- Publishing Conservation Data for Green Growth on your county GIS online map viewer.
- A public web page dedicated to wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Priority Habitats in your community.
- A guidance document to be used by your planning department or developers that provides guidelines for conservation through specific development ordinances or designs.
- Charrettes for specific large parcels to demonstrate preferred site design.
- A proposed conservation district map.
- A public information campaign that details the number of public meetings and education materials provided.

List of 4 or less primary project deliverables

List of project goals and objectives

List of any project partners and their roles (what they will do)

List the roles of local government officials, board members and staff in the project

What will local government officials, board members or staff do as part of your project?

Approximate timeline

Provide a brief timeline of completion dates for stages of the project. All projects should start by July 1 or October 15th.

Secondary staff person name and contact information. This staff person must take over management of the project if the principal staff person changes jobs during the project, or funding will be at-risk.

Support for Conservation

Briefly describe the conservation interests or actions of your community and local governing or planning-related board. (A letter of support may be required from the governing board as part of the project idea review).

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide details about conservation interests or actions of their community and local governing or planning-related board.

Summary Project and Budget Narrative

Please describe your project below in 300 words or less. Include a brief description of the activities that will use PGG funds and what you would count as non-federal in-kind match. Please provide the approximate amount of PGG funds that would be requested for GIS mapping.

For questions and to discuss project ideas, please contact Brooke Massa at brooke.massa@ncwildlife.org, (919)630-3086 or Kacy Cook at kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org, (910)638-4887.

The application form below is only for your information and should not be completed unless the NCWRC invites you to complete a final application.

For those project ideas that qualify, please complete the invited application below. A NCWRC Biologist will be available to assist you with your application.

If your application qualifies for funding, your application text will be placed in a draft contract agreement with NCWRC.

Please provide proof of review and approval of this final application by your Board of Commissioners

Partners for Green Growth Invited Application

Date:

Contact Information:

Name of County and or Municipality or Council of Government:

Amount of funds to be requested:

Also provide the date of any interim reimbursements needed before the final reimbursement at project completion. Each reimbursement requires a project report.

Non-federal in-kind match amount committed:

Alternate project principal in the event of staff changes:

Billing Contact (for receipt of funds by check):

Scope of Work

Please detail what you plan to do, how funds will be used and describe the following.

- a. Project goals
- b. How the project enhances and builds off of any existing local or regional conservation-related plans that will be considered in your project. (Please name the plans and provide links).
- c. The specific permanent conservation lands and or rural areas that could be better protected from the encroachment of dense development through your project and how (name the specific Game Lands, state and local parks or conservation easements).
- d. How and where the project could enhance the connectivity of wildlife habitat between conserved lands and in rural areas.
- e. How this project could benefit the community, the local economy and any military training installations.
- f. Other expected outcomes.
- g. The activities that NCWRC could provide technical guidance and assistance. For example, mapping, providing information to a committee or board, reviewing planning related documents to provide recommendations.

Project Budget

Please provide a brief budget narrative that describes approximate fund amounts that will be spent on specific project activities. Please describe the entities that will provide non-federal in-kind match, the source of in-kind match (salary, volunteer time, travel miles), how the match source is not supported by federal funds and the amount of non-federal in kind match.

If an NGO or local government entity is a partner that will receive some of the cost-share funds for the project, please highlight the items in your application that the NGO will complete.

Budget Table

Description	[Applicant name] (non-federal match)	The Commission NCWRC PGG funds	Sub-Total
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Construction			
Other			
Total Direct Charges			
Overhead/Indirect	(can count as match)	(Must be \$0)	
Total			

No overhead/indirect costs for this project may be charged to NCWRC (The Commission), but these can count as non-federal in-kind match if funds these costs are not from federal sources.

Project Timeline

A brief project implementation plan and timeline highlighting the roles and responsibilities of any project partners, elected officials, board members, the public or NCDOT, MPO or RPO staff.

Deliverables

Please include the approximate date that deliverables will be completed. If an interim reimbursement is needed, an interim report will be required that details progress on deliverables. If an NGO or local government entity is a partner that will receive some of the cost-share funds for the project, please highlight the items that the NGO will complete. Deliverables must include any interim project and financial reports (required only if an interim reimbursement is requested by the applicant) and a final project and financial report for the final project reimbursement due 18 months after the project start date.