

Section 14 Regional and Interjurisdictional Coordination

The effects of climate change, widespread ~~interjurisdictional~~inter-jurisdictional commuting patterns, and shifting economies require thinking and planning at a regional scale. Cities can no longer act in isolation, expecting that plans and actions terminating at political boundaries will maintain economic health, environmental assets, and residents' quality of life. Cities across the nation must now collaborate with other cities and counties, coordinating within and across jurisdictional boundaries to manage growth, development issues, and service provision. Raleigh's continued success relies on its ability to plan and act regionally—this is one of the City's biggest challenges. Other regions across the nation are acting regionally and changing the way they plan; these regions can offer models of success and lessons learned as the City of Raleigh and the Research Triangle region move forward.

The City of Raleigh is one of many municipalities contributing to the Triangle region's economic success, benefiting from its natural resources, and responsible for its sustainability. Ensuring the economic, environmental, and social welfare of the extended region requires intergovernmental cooperation in planning and the provision of public services. Raleigh's regional challenges include transportation, land use and growth management, diversity of housing choices, economic development, education, protection of natural resources, ~~mitigation of climate change~~adaptation and mitigation, improvement of air quality, and provision of public services.

Some individual municipalities participate in regional matters through local planning, such as Orange County's regional park facility planning initiatives or Raleigh's participation in the Center of the Region Enterprise (CORE) plan development and implementation. ~~At the county level, Wake County is pursuing the merger of all Wake County water and sewer systems into a single utility by 2015. The City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department provides water and sanitary sewer service to approximately 180,000 metered water and sewer customers and a service population of approximately 530,000 people in the Raleigh, Garner, Wake Forest, Rolesville, Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon areas. Several public services are operated on a countywide basis—such as the public school system, public libraries, landfills, hazardous waste collection, and EMS service—and require local input for facility planning.~~

In addition to these local efforts, regional policies and programs are also being developed by various organizations and regional bodies. The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) is active in regional land use and transportation planning. The Triangle region also has two main metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) responsible for ~~long-range~~long-range regional transportation planning: Capital Area MPO (CAMPO), which governs the City of Raleigh, and Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO (~~DCHCMPO~~DCHC- MPO). The Burlington-Graham MPO and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are also regional actors in transportation planning.

All of these groups plan for and carry out the regional transportation programs that affect land use, growth management, and resource planning. Organizations such as the Triangle Land Conservancy and Triangle GreenPrint seek to preserve open and green space to ensure responsible regional growth management. Triangle Tomorrow, through the Urban Land Institute's Reality Check, has initiated a planning effort on how to handle growth in the 15 counties that surround RTP over the next 20 years. The Research Triangle Region is projected to grow by 1.2 million people and add 700,000 jobs by 2030. In addition to the MPOs and regional non-profit organizations that act locally, Raleigh has a series of ad-hoc taskforces, partnerships, and advisory groups that address specific regional concerns. Examples include the Western Wake Partnership for Wastewater Infrastructure ("Western Wake Partners") initiative to develop regional wastewater treatment facilities, and the Wake County Growth Issues

Taskforce, and the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) tasked with developing and evaluating a vision for regional transit.

These state, local, county, non-profit, and ad-hoc efforts represent a regional awareness that certain types of mid- and long-range planning cannot take place within isolated political boundaries. Patterns and consequences of land use and development cross city and county lines. This regional awareness is transformed into local planning commitment as municipalities, including Raleigh, sign on to national (U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement) and international (International Council or Local Environmental Initiatives – ICLEI) agreements to pursue more sustainable development and growth practices.

Current efforts at regional coordination are disparate and may not be able to accomplish separately what a more coordinated, unified program or entity might. The specific policies and actions described in this Regional and Inter-jurisdictional Coordination Element section all fall under the broader goal of having improved and more effective regional governance. Raleigh and its regional neighbors must provide adequate public infrastructure, and improve regional mobility to keep up with the region's high population growth rate.

Key issues addressed in this element section include:

- A need to manage growth;
- Loss of rural land and character in areas where it might be preserved;
- A need to protect natural and historic resources;
- Reduction in green spaces and the need to offset the loss of natural areas in the region;
- Continually increasing travel times, traffic congestion, and reliance on the automobile;
- Challenge of providing adequate public utilities and facilities for a rapidly growing population—everything from drinking water and solid waste removal to public schools and community centers;
- Responsibility to change development and transportation patterns to improve air quality; and
- Stewardship of water resources and protection of water quality.

In working together as a region, each individual locality's ability to achieve its planning goals and to create visible and lasting change increases.

The Comprehensive Plan vision theme of Managing Our Growth cannot be accomplished without coordination with the State, Wake County and other jurisdictions within the greater Triangle region. Increased cross-commuting patterns, regional transportation planning, and state-level maintenance of roadways require that regional coordination occur to achieve the vision theme of Coordinating Land Use and Transportation. Economic Prosperity and Equity and Greenprint Raleigh—Sustainable Development also require that Raleigh partner and collaborate with other regional actors.

Policies and actions to implement this element appear below. Numbers indicate their relationship to the themes, as follows:

To track the efficiency of the City's policies, any of the Comprehensive Plan's vision themes that may be relevant to a particular policy are indicated by one of six icons. The vision themes are:

1. Economic Prosperity and Equity
2. Expanding Housing Choices
3. Managing Our Growth
4. Coordinating Land Use and Transportation

5. Greenprint Raleigh
6. Growing Successful Neighborhoods and Communities

In this Section and throughout the Plan, Key Policies used to evaluate zoning consistency are noted as such with an orange dot (•).

14.1 Transportation Investments

The City of Raleigh partners with several organizations for transportation planning and implementation; these organizations include Capital Area MPO (CAMPO), North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and ~~Triangle Transit-GoTriangle~~. Together with the City, these organizations provide residents of Raleigh and the Triangle region with a multi-modal system. NCDOT has primary responsibility for the maintenance of interstates, state highways, and bridges. CAMPO maintains the region's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, which includes plans not only for automobiles, but also for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. The Raleigh area is served primarily by two transit services—the regional ~~Triangle Transit (TT) and Raleigh's Capital Area Transit (CAT)-GoTriangle and GoRaleigh Transit~~. Another locally-oriented transit system is North Carolina State University's Wolfline, which primarily serves the university but is also open to the general public.

Increasing population and changing patterns of development will place additional strain on the existing transportation system unless investments target the creation of alternative, non-automotive modes. Investments and policies must focus on enhancing transit options—adding new modes, such as rail transit—as well as improving existing modes such as bicycle routes and trails. ~~The number of riders on CAT increased by nine percent in January and 18 percent in February 2008 compared to January and February 2007. This trend already suggests~~ Triangle region has responded with projects such as the growing need for additional transit service-Durham-Orange Light Raleigh Transit Project and the Wake County Transit Plan. Regional rail and enhanced bus service are already in the conceptual stages. ~~The efforts of TT, NCDOT, and reflected in the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) represent important first steps towards regional transit.-adopted Wake County Transit Plan.~~

Continued collaboration accompanied by targeted investments will bring these efforts from ~~concept plan adoption~~ to implementation. Important steps in this process include Raleigh's Major Investment Study and Downtown Operations Study and TJCOG's Wake Transit Corridor Land Use & Housing Planning project. Transportation issues related to Raleigh-Durham International Airport and commercial and freight transportation also require regional coordination.

See also: ~~B-34.2~~ 'Roadway System and Transportation Demand Management,' ~~B-54.4~~ 'Public Transportation,' ~~B-64.5~~ 'Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation,' and ~~B-94.8~~ 'Commercial Truck and Rail Freight' in ~~Element B~~ Section 4: 'Transportation' for related policies and actions.

Policy RC 1.1 Regional Transit Planning

Work with other regional jurisdictions and stakeholders to improve regional transit, including regional rail, through coordinated land use and transportation planning, investment in transit infrastructure, and alternative funding methods. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ See also ~~Element B: 'Transportation'~~. Section 4: 'Transportation.'

Policy RC 1.2 Transit Agency Coordination

Facilitate coordination between ~~Triangle Transit's GoTriangle~~ services, Wake County's extended transit services, and the City of Raleigh's Capital Area GoRaleigh transit. Support coordinated improvements to

service frequency, schedules, routes, fare collections, and establishing a unified rider information system. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 1.3 Transit Funding

Explore and support funding alternatives, such as a regional sales tax, to help fund a regional transit system and regional transit services. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 1.4 Bridges

Coordinate with NCDOT for bridge monitoring, maintenance, and rehabilitation. ~~(3, 4)~~

Policy RC 1.5 Reducing Regional VMT

Support efforts to reduce traffic congestion and decrease vehicle miles traveled through cross-jurisdictional transit-oriented design and transportation planning programs. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 1.6 Pedestrian and Bicycle Links

Expand regional accessibility and linkages for pedestrians and bicyclists. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 1.7 Regional Bicycle Planning

Provide regional bicycle mobility, developing cross-jurisdiction bicycle corridors such as that proposed by Triangle J Council of Governments' (TJCOG) Center of the Region Enterprise (CORE). ~~(4, 5)~~

Action RC 1.1 Reserved

Action RC 1.2 Reserved

~~Action RC 1.3 Reserved~~

14.2 Land Use and Growth Management

The City of Raleigh currently exercises planning and zoning authority within its incorporated limits (its taxing and municipal service area) as well as its extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), an area outside of the incorporated limits where the City has been granted land use authority by Wake County. The City also has annexation agreements with adjacent municipalities delineating areas that are programmed for eventual annexation by Raleigh. Wake County's Land Use Plan recognizes these annexation agreement boundaries by designating the future growth areas of all Wake County cities and towns as Short or Long Range Urban Service Areas (USAs), depending upon the anticipated time horizon for utility extension. These areas currently consist primarily of undeveloped land, farmland, and low-density residential uses, and they comprise all land in the county outside of water supply watersheds.

Recent development patterns have consumed land at a faster rate than population growth, due to low density development patterns. Coordination with Wake County and other adjacent municipalities is required to develop a countywide growth management plan. Approaches that provide for more compact and orderly growth and better coordination of land development with infrastructure and public facilities are required. Future annexation areas should remain predominately undeveloped until ~~developable and redevelopable~~ land areas within current jurisdictional boundaries are more fully utilized. ~~Many growth management initiatives exist, as described~~The Triangle J Council of Government has initiated one regional coordination effort, the Center of Region Enterprise (CORE) project, to take a longer-term, comprehensive look at development, mobility and green space opportunities in this

~~Element's Overview, but a unified and coordinated approach to a more sustainable pattern of growth does not.~~ the region's center.

Central to encouraging compact growth is the provision of affordable and accessible housing. There are existing efforts to this end, including the Wake County Affordable Housing Plan, and the City currently collaborates with Wake County, the Raleigh Housing Authority, the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, and private housing developers to produce and preserve affordable and supportive housing throughout the City. As land becomes more expensive, the need to coordinate affordable housing development with public facility development will become more critical.

Policy RC 2.1 Regional Smart Growth Promotion

Work with regional and local groups to promote smart growth, focusing growth in already developed areas, creating walkable and livable communities, increasing transportation options, and preserving green spaces. ~~(3, 4, 5, 6)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use'-Use.'

Policy RC 2.2 TJCOG Land Use Strategies

Pursue opportunities through TJCOG to more effectively address regional land use and growth management challenges, while preserving local planning autonomy. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use'-Use.'

Policy RC 2.3 Regional TOD Strategies

Encourage a regional distribution of land uses and economic activities that will encourage transit-oriented development patterns rather than development patterns based on the single-occupant automobile. Provide for more compact and efficient patterns of development to support transit and non-motorized travel. ~~(1, 3, 4, 5)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use' and Element B: 'Transportation'-Section 4: 'Transportation.'

Policy RC 2.4 Employer-assisted Housing

Work with Wake County and the State of North Carolina to create employer-assisted housing programs to encourage employees to live in or near downtown Raleigh. ~~(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use', Element K Use,' Section 13: 'Arts and Culture', Culture,' and Element E: 'Housing'-Section 7: 'Housing.'

Policy RC 2.5 Housing and Neighborhood Planning

Ensure interdepartmental and intergovernmental coordination and funding of housing and neighborhood planning activities and programs. ~~(2, 3, 6)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use'-Use.'

Policy RC 2.6 Regional Coordination on Emerging Issues

Promote intergovernmental coordination to focus on emerging development issues, such as reinvigorating aging commercial centers and corridors. ~~(1, 3, 5, 6)~~ See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use'-Use.'

Policy RC 2.7 Regional Open Space Networks

Support initiatives, such as the Triangle Green Print initiatives, that work to create a protected, linked network of natural areas, wildlife habitats, and greenspaces throughout the region. Specifically, accelerate connections between greenway systems throughout the region. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 2.8 Shared Corridors

Ensure coordination between the City and adjacent municipalities in land use development, access, and natural resource protection along shared corridors linking the municipalities. ~~(3, 4, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 2.9 Coordinating Schools, Libraries, and Parks

Foster collaboration with WCPSS and Wake County Libraries in co-locating these facilities. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 2.10 School and Library Planning

Work with Wake County to plan for land adequate to meet present and future public school and library needs. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 2.11 Concurrency and County Facilities

Coordinate with the State of North Carolina and Wake County to ensure appropriate infrastructure is planned or in place when siting facilities. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 2. ~~12~~ 2 County and State Government Facilities Planning

Coordinate with the State of North Carolina and Wake County to enhance transit, bicycle and pedestrian access to new and existing government facilities, encourage compact and efficient use of publicly-owned lands, and leverage public investments to spur complementary private investment. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 2.13 Developments of Regional Impact

Coordinate with State, County, and regional agencies in the project review procedures of developments likely to cause land use, transportation, and environmental impacts beyond the political boundaries in which they occur. Projects of this type are referred to as Developments of Regional impact (DRIs) in many states. ~~(3, 4, 5)~~

Policy RC 2.14 Regional Growth Management Initiatives

Participate in regional initiatives to manage growth, conserve land, and increase regional mobility, such as the TJCOG's Development and Infrastructure Partnership and the Wake County Growth Issues Task Force. ~~(1, 3, 4, 5)~~

Action RC 2.1 Regional Growth Management Agreement

Promote the adoption of a voluntary regional agreement among the Triangle's cities and counties containing principles addressing how to manage future regional urban growth and services. See also ~~Element A~~ Section 3: 'Land Use'-Use.

Action RC 2.2 ~~Reserved~~

~~Action RC 2.3~~ State and County Role in Park Acquisition

Pursue a greater state and county role in acquiring and funding regional park facilities.

Action RC 2. ~~43~~ 43 Rural Development Guidelines

Prepare rural development guidelines for the Long-Range Urban Service Area with collaboration among the City, Wake County, adjacent municipalities, and affected residents and property owners.

Action ~~RC 2.54~~ Reserved

Action ~~RC 2.65~~ Regional Land Use Maps

Work with TJCOG and Triangle counties and municipalities to prepare regional existing and future land use maps. Use these maps to analyze land capacity and impacts on a regional basis.

Action RC 2.7 ~~Inter-local~~ Inter-local Agreement on Affordable Housing

Create an inter-local governmental agreement that promotes a regional approach to affordable housing countywide.

14.3 Economic Development Initiatives

One of the nation's most rapidly growing regions, the Triangle is benefiting from long-term investments in major educational institutions and the Research Triangle Park. The expanding base of technology industries continues to generate new jobs, and the area's highly-touted and affordable quality of life provides regional employers with a competitive advantage for attracting and retaining qualified workers.

The Triangle's component jurisdictions are increasingly connected as employees ~~erossecommute~~ cross-commute, new businesses develop to serve companies throughout the region, and existing industry spins off new businesses. The region is recognized as an economic powerhouse for biotech innovations, medical breakthroughs, technological advancements, state-of-the-art educational institutions and advanced research—a pivotal factor in its economic longevity. Continued cultivation of growing industries, particularly information, biosciences, and other technologies, will foster continued economic prosperity for Raleigh and the region.

Coordination between jurisdictions in the region and with the State will be critical to protecting Raleigh's high quality of life and continuing economic success. Employment and development will need to be distributed equitably and efficiently to prevent market saturation and uneven, single-use patterns of development. Resources and efforts from various regional actors will be required to address job readiness and job transitions as manufacturing jobs decrease and other sectors replace them. There are a variety of organizations working in and around Raleigh on economic development issues and initiatives, including Wake County Economic Development (WCED) in the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, ~~Southeast Raleigh Assembly (SERAA)~~ Area Development Authority (RADA), Greater Raleigh Visitors and Convention Bureau (GRVCB), and Research Triangle Region Partnership (RTRP). Additional collaboration among these groups combined with support from jurisdictions will help the region better manage economic development—employment, services, and development.

See also ~~D'6.7~~ 'Creative Industries' in ~~Element D~~ Section 6: 'Economic Development' for related policies on colleges and universities.

Policy RC 3.1 Economic Development Coordination

Coordinate with local, state, and regional economic development organizations to develop strategic programs that focus on maintaining Raleigh's economic success and regional competitiveness. ~~(1, 3)~~ See also ~~Element D~~ Section 6: 'Economic Development.'

Policy RC 3.2 Tracking Regional Economic Change

Identify emerging changes in local and regional economies and collaborate with regional economic development partners to address issues adequately and equitably through new programs, policies, and incentives as appropriate. ~~(1, 3)~~ See also ~~Element D~~ Section 6: 'Economic Development.'

Policy RC 3.3 Capturing Economic Opportunities

Continue to work with Wake County Economic Development (WCED) and the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce to better capitalize on local economic development opportunities. ~~(1, 3)~~ See also Section 6: 'Economic Development--Development'

Action RC 3.1 Job Retraining Programs

Work with Wake County and local universities to provide job training and education for those who need to re-train for new industry jobs.

Action RC 3.2 Research Triangle Regional Partnership

Support the work of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and similar groups in maintaining continued regional competitiveness.

Action RC 3.3 Green Technology Strategy

Develop a regional strategy for attracting and supporting businesses and start-ups in the green technology industry with participation from regional economic development entities and research universities.

14.4 Education Investments

The City of Raleigh is served by the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), which is made up of more than a hundred schools, some 13,000 teachers and staff, and thousands of volunteers working together to educate the children of Wake County. The system was formed in 1976 with the merger of the former City of Raleigh and Wake County school systems and is the largest system in the state.

In a ~~November 2007~~December 2016 report, the WCPSS's Growth and Planning Department worked jointly with the Wake County Planning Department to determine new enrollment projections for the next three years. The school system is expected to enroll over ~~20,200~~13,000 more new students over the next three years increasing total enrollment for the ~~2010-2011~~2016-2020 school year to a projected level of over ~~154~~170,000 students. According to the 2006 Blue Ribbon Committee Report on the Future of Wake County, in 2030, the projected numbers of students in Wake County schools will more than double current enrollment levels.

The demand for new schools due to the rapid growth in school-aged population is straining the County's ability to plan for and build schools. Existing funding mechanisms ~~as well as~~and levels of coordination cannot keep pace with projected growth. Regional coordination on issues related to better funding for the capital costs of school construction and new infrastructure to accommodate growth is needed for this important asset to be maintained.

Raleigh is also home to eight universities and colleges, enriching the City's educational opportunities. Among these educational institutions are North Carolina State University, a major research institution, two private ~~women's~~women's colleges, and two historically significant schools that were founded as institutions of higher learning for African Americans. With a combined student population approaching 40,000, these institutions have a major impact on the demographic makeup of the City. Raleigh is also the primary home to Wake Technical Community College, which provides two-year associate degrees, continuing education classes, coursework that can be transferred for college credit, and an array of diplomas and certificates.

The strength of Raleigh's schools is central to the region's high quality of life and economic success. These educational opportunities are the product of overlapping municipal, county, and state institutions. Raleigh must partner and coordinate with county and state organizations to maintain and improve its educational assets.

Policy RC 4.1 Coordinated School Planning

Coordinate with Wake County Schools, County government, and Wake Technical Community College through the Wake Public Facilities Coordinating Committee in the planning and construction of needed educational facilities. ~~(1, 3, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.2 WCPSS Review of Development Plans

Keep the Wake County Public School System informed of subdivision and residential site plans, rezoning requests, and other development activity that may impact school enrollments. ~~(1, 3, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.3 School Siting and Design

Collaborate with WCPSS on school siting and design criteria to provide facilities that are universally accessible and best meet public needs. Consider issues of walkability, ~~nonmotorized~~ non-motorized transportation projects, proximity to growth areas, and access to transit. ~~(1, 3, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.4 School and Library Planning

Work with Wake County to plan for and designate land adequate to meet present and future public school and library needs. ~~(1, 3, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.5 College and University Planning

Encourage increased cooperation and partnerships between college and universities and surrounding communities. ~~(1, 3, 6)~~ See also ~~Element D~~ Section 6: 'Economic Development'. ~~Development.'~~

Policy RC 4.6 Co-location of Schools and Housing

Coordinate with WCPSS to co-locate affordable housing, with priority given to households below 50 percent of AMI, in conjunction with new schools to encourage economic diversity within new neighborhoods and schools, encourage walking, and reduce the need for busing. ~~(2, 3, 4, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.7 Sustainable Schools

Promote use of sustainable development practices for schools, including construction of high performance facilities that conserve water and energy. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.8 School Site Location Working Group

Work with WCPSS to identify available properties for future school locations. ~~(3, 6)~~

Policy RC 4.9 ~~Rezoning Impacts on Schools~~ Regional Growth Management Initiatives

Coordinate development approvals with Wake County Public Schools. Inform them of rezonings that may have school impacts, and ensure new residential developments are ~~re-lected~~ reflected in demand projections. ~~(3, 6)~~

Action RC 4.1 School Enrollment Projections

Use common population forecasts and future land use projections for the City and county to improve the accuracy of enrollment projections.

Action RC 4.2 Financing of School Construction

Explore possible alternatives to the property tax to fund the capital costs of school construction and new infrastructure.

Action RC 4.3 Partnerships with Design and Construction Staff

Establish new and maintain current partnerships with WCPSS Facilities Design and Construction staff.

Action RC 4.4 ~~Reserved~~

~~Action RC 4.5~~ Distance Learning

Encourage WCPSS to expand the use of online, virtual, and distance learning to allow a broader population to take advantage of educational opportunities without significantly adding to the need for new buildings or instructional space.

Action RC 4.6 ~~Reserved~~

~~Action RC 4.7~~ ~~Reserved~~

14.5 Public Libraries

As the population and demand for library services grow, so does the need to build new facilities. The Wake County Public Libraries 2007 Master Plan includes both service elements and capital elements. The service elements outline the core services and service priorities of the system. North Hills is one of the top six recommended projects and downtown Raleigh is designated as a horizon project in the 2007 Library Service Analysis. The analysis concluded that overall status is good. All libraries had been renovated, remodeled, or newly constructed with the past decade. Excellent service, cost effectiveness, and productivity are hallmarks of the growing system.

Wake County Public Libraries has developed facilities through library bonds dating back to the establishment of the system in the mid-1980s. A \$10 million bond referendum in 1993 and \$35 million bond referendum in 2003 helped fund many of the system's current facilities. There are two library projects in the planning stages that will be the last ones funded from the 2003 bond. These projects are the Leesville Branch Library (2009) and Northeast Regional Library (2010). The 2003 Library Bonds system's current facilities. These and subsequent bond funding has helped WCPL keep pace, but on-going population growth is once again placing libraries at capacity levels. In 2007 another bond was issued in response to recommendations outlined in the 2007 Master Plan. For more information on the 2007 Master Plan, see the Community Inventory Report.

Policy RC 5.1 Library System Investment

Continue the County's county's investment in libraries by continuing to expand the library system to reach the unserved and under-served populations. Ensure adequate access to library services in future growth areas. (3, 6)

Policy RC 5.2 Sustainable Library Design

Collaborate with Wake County to incorporate sustainable development and design in the construction of libraries. (3, 5)

Policy RC 5.3 Library Siting

Provide library facilities that are sensitive to natural surroundings, universally accessible, and located near centers of activity and public transit. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Policy RC 5.4 Library Co-location

Consider co-location and joint use opportunities as part of the library building program plan. ~~(3, 5, 6)~~

Action RC 5.1 Downtown and North Hills Branch Libraries

Encourage the construction of downtown and North Hills branch libraries.

Action RC 5.2 Wake County Coordination on Library Siting

Maintain communication with Wake County public facilities and capital improvement staff as land use plans are confirmed and available property is identified for the siting of additional public libraries.

14.6 Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources

At the end of 2007, Wake County was immersed in a historic drought, rated as Exceptional (the most severe rating) by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources. The drought was unusual both in its severity and closeness to the prior drought in 2002. ~~If this represents an emerging climate pattern, there could be revisions to the safe yield calibration for water supply bodies both in Wake County and throughout the Southeast. This would have major implications for water system and resource planning everywhere, including Wake County and the Triangle region.~~ A drought of similar harshness was experienced again in late 2012. In the years since, annual rainfall totals have been well above average, which demonstrates how variable our climate has become.

~~Changes in climate and decreases in resources are just two of many indications signaling a needed shift in resource, land, and energy use and management. The City of Raleigh has joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Governments for Sustainability, an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. Membership means a commitment to sustainability and a recognition that regional and collaborative action is necessary to improve resource stewardship and better manage regional growth.~~

Efforts to reduce vulnerability to potential hazards and to protect natural resources will continue to require a regional approach. The City, along with other Wake County local jurisdictions, participated in the development of the Wake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, strategies to conserve water and energy, to protect natural habitats and species, and to improve air and water quality are already used in Raleigh and neighboring jurisdictions. Regional efforts, such as those of the Triangle J Council of Governments' Water Conservation Task Force, also exist. What remains is for local and regional groups to improve collaboration and promote methods for development and conservation that improve the long-term health of human and ecological systems.

See also ~~Element C~~Section 5: 'Environmental Protection' for additional policies and actions.

Policy RC 6.1 Conservation Partnerships

Pursue partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, regional bodies, and other levels of government to create more effective regional resource and ecosystem management and conservation programs including wildlife habitat conservation, restoration, and management. ~~(3, 5)~~

Policy RC 6.2 Falls Lake Watershed Land Protection

Coordinate with conservation and land trust groups to protect the Falls Lake watershed through the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI). ~~(3, 5)~~ See also ~~Element C~~ Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'. ~~Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'.~~

Policy RC 6.3 Water Supply Management

Work with neighboring jurisdictions and existing and future organizations to manage and protect the regional water supply, including protecting the watershed of the planned Little River Reservoir from inappropriate development that would degrade water quality. ~~(3, 5)~~ See also ~~C.3~~ Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'. ~~Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'.
~~'Water Quality and Conservation' in Element C: 'Environmental Protection'~~.~~

Policy RC 6.4 Air Quality Partnerships

Collaborate with the Triangle Air Quality Partnership, the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition, the Triangle Air Awareness Coalition, and other regional partners to adopt additional air quality policies and fulfill regional air quality goals. ~~(3, 5)~~ See also ~~Element C~~ Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'. ~~Section 5: 'Environmental Protection'~~.

Policy RC 6.5 Water Standards

Maintain the non-degradation standards and goals for water leaving ~~Raleigh's~~ Raleigh's jurisdiction. These standards state that (a) water quality leaving ~~Raleigh's~~ Raleigh's sanitary sewers (effluent) be as good as or better than water quality entering the ~~City's~~ City's intake, and (b) water quality (runoff) entering the ~~City's~~ City's storm sewers should have minimal degradation or contamination. ~~(3, 5)~~

Action RC 6.1 Neuse River Corridor Extension

Extend planning efforts for the Neuse River corridor to the Wake-Johnston County line. As City limits and services are extended along the river, these properties should be incorporated into the City's Parks and Greenway system.

Action RC 6.2 Participation in UNRBA Initiatives

Participate in the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA), UNRBA initiatives, and other regional efforts to protect water quality.

Action RC 6.3 Stormwater Discharge Alternatives

Use drainage basin studies to identify feasible minor regional facilities and other facility improvements that may be constructed as alternatives to on-site discharge control.

Action RC 6.4 Air Pollution Mitigation Projects

Identify specific transportation projects that will reduce air pollutants and improve air quality. Use Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds to pay for them.

Action RC 6.5 Regional Open Space Plan

Work with other jurisdictions and stakeholders to develop a regional open space plan to ensure the continued existence of recreational and natural areas and to provide for regional accessibility and linkages for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Action RC 6.6 Regional Climate Action Planning

Develop a coordinated regional approach for dealing with issues of climate change.

Action RC 6.7 Wildlife Habitats

Coordinate wildlife habitat conservation, restoration, and management with Wake County municipalities, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Wake Nature Preserves Partnership, and other relevant stakeholders.

14.7 Public Facilities and Infrastructure

The City of Raleigh has merged water and sewer utilities with all the municipalities in eastern Wake County including Garner, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon. Further, the Towns of Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs periodically rely on the City for drinking water. The vast majority of the drinking water supply for Raleigh (and surrounding municipalities connected to the regional system) is from Falls Lake on the Neuse River, with a small amount coming from Wake Forest Lake on Smith Creek. ~~Two new water treatment facilities,~~The City opened the D. E. Benton Water Treatment Plant ~~and in 2010, and a new water treatment facility,~~ the Little River Water Treatment Plant, ~~are~~is anticipated to be in service by 2010 and 2025 respectively. The City also has or is planning water interconnects with the Town of Cary, the City of Durham, and Johnston County.

Regional water system planning challenges include not only supplying adequate potable water, but also managing wastewater and stormwater generated by growth and development. During extreme low flow events, ~~(6)~~ the City's Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge can be up to 40 percent of the river flow at the downstream water supply intake for Johnston County. Multi-jurisdictional initiatives similar to the Lake Preservation Policy will be central to future stormwater management considerations as the City's pattern of development changes. Other public services, such as solid waste and energy infrastructure, will also benefit from collaborative regional approaches. Wake County's new regional solid waste management facility, South Wake, is one example of such an approach.

Policy RC 7.1 ~~Water~~ Planning and Climate Change

Update water system planning methods with surrounding jurisdictions to account for emerging climate patterns. ~~(3, 5)~~ See also ~~Element G~~Section 9: 'Public Utilities'.~~Utilities.'~~

Policy RC 7.2 ~~Balancing Infrastructure and Conservation~~

~~Collaborate with other jurisdictions to better balance the demand for infrastructure with the preservation of resources. (3, 5) See also Element A: 'Land Use', and Element B: 'Transportation'.~~

Policy RC 7.3 Regional Energy Planning

Support regional efforts (such as the Research Triangle Energy Consortium) to improve energy efficiency, reduce the environmental impact of energy production, and improve energy security. ~~(3, 5)~~

Policy RC 7.4 ~~3~~ Regional Solid Waste Management

Establish a regional solid waste reduction and management program. ~~(3, 5)~~

Policy RC 7.5 ~~4~~ Solid Waste Disposal Facility Planning

Working with Wake County, ensure that suitable municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal capacity is available, including facilities as needed for the proper management of solid waste resulting from natural disasters and emergencies. ~~(3, 6)~~

Policy RC 7.6 ~~5~~ Transfer and Recovery Stations

Working with Wake County, establish transfer/ recovery stations, as needed, to provide for efficient delivery of solid waste to the designated disposal and processing facilities. ~~(3, 6)~~

Action RC 7.1 Solid Waste Plan Implementation

Working with the county and other jurisdictions, implement the Wake County Solid Waste Management Plan ~~for the planning period July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2016.~~

Action RC 7.2 ~~Reserved~~ Emergency Water Transmission

Participate in developing an inter-connected emergency water transmission system for the Research Triangle area.

Action RC 7.3 Landfill Capacity Monitoring

Monitor use and remaining capacity of the new South Wake regional solid waste landfill (designed to have a 25-year disposal capacity).

Action RC 7.4 Regional Stormwater Management Plan

Continue to support the regional stormwater management plan now under development through a collaborative effort by the City, the state, and the property owners in the Northeast Regional Center.