



Natural Environment Goals and Policies

Below is a list of the opportunities and issues for the natural environment identified by the public and refined by the Catawba Area Plan Citizen Advisory Group.

Opportunities

- Protect remaining open space and tree cover.
- Allow environmental impacts to determine future planning decisions.

Issues

- Loss of natural areas, wildlife habitat and tree cover.

Draft Vision Statement

The following draft vision statement was created by the Advisory Group on September 4, 2008.

The Catawba River Area should have a central focus on the river itself and the maximization of its enjoyment for the benefit of the community. Proper integration of all uses within the area shall create a sustainable community for all ages known for its:

- High quality design reflective of the area's river and recreational characteristics;
- ***Natural resources protected with innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices such as preservation of mature trees, open space and greenways integrated within neighborhoods.***
- Enhanced public facilities and services;
- Mixture of housing types and neighborhood-serving land uses;
- Safe and well-connected transportation network that provides options for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit users;
- Viable employment centers integrated in appropriate locations.

The natural environment policies which follow provide direction to accommodate growth and change while protecting the quality of our water, land and air.

Goal: Protect the quality of the area's water supply.

Water Quality

1. Identify environmentally sensitive areas such as watershed areas, significant wetlands, streams, tree canopy and topography and address how they will be protected and/or mitigated.
2. Use innovative, state-of-the-art practices to collect, treat and disperse storm water run-off such as Low Impact Design (LID).
3. Encourage development practices that minimize clearing, grading and soil compaction so that impacts to the environment are minimized.

Goal: Encourage environmentally sensitive land development practices.

Land Quality

1. Preserve the tree canopy, native plants and open space where feasible. Incorporate natural features into development proposals.
2. Expand the area's greenways and passive open space.

Goal: Support developments that minimize the use of single-occupancy vehicles and help reduce vehicular trips.

Air Quality

1. Encourage high quality, mixed-use developments that promote pedestrian circulation to and through the site and support bicycling and short vehicular trips.
2. Provide transit service options when and where practical.
3. Install sidewalks to connect residents to neighborhood-serving land uses.