

Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 3

Greensboro, North Carolina, Regional Soil Survey Office

Training for Wake County NRCS Field Office and County SWCD Staff on Use of Revised Soil Survey

Purpose

The extensive revision of the soil survey for Wake County, North Carolina, was published to the Web Soil Survey in October of 2017. Prior to this, the Wake County NRCS and SWCD staff were accustomed to using the original survey published in 1970. Training was provided on the computer and in the field to ensure a smooth transition to use of the new dataset.

Wake County includes Raleigh, Research Triangle Park, and the State Capital. As one of the busiest counties in the State, it experienced rapid development since the original soil survey publication 45 years ago. The county is in the Piedmont of North Carolina, where complex geology has influenced the types of local soils. Wake County has three distinctively different geologic types. In the past 45 years, updates and new surveys have been completed for all counties surrounding Wake and other counties in the Piedmont. The extensive revision, built on 45 years of experience, shows major changes to the map linework throughout the county and to the soil data for one of the geologic units. It also has several new map unit complexes with urban land.

The staff of the NRCS regional soil survey office in Greensboro provided training to staff from the NRCS field office and the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). They demonstrated how to access the new data using Web Soil Survey, make a selected set, download soil data, and create custom reports. They also spent several days in the field to illustrate how the new publication differs from the previous and to provide some basic soil science training.

Key Outcomes

Training was provided to NRCS field office and SWCD staff on how to access and use data from the extensive revision of the Wake County soil survey. Participants gained the tools to develop custom reports needed to assist landowners with conservation planning. In addition, the training built working relationships with between staffs and facilitated future conservation assistance.

