



# Morrisville Environment and Stormwater Committee

Environment and Stormwater Committee Meeting  
June 7, 2023, 6:30 PM

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes**  
May
  - 3.a [Minutes](#)  
[Meeting Minutes 20230504.pdf](#)
4. **Presentations**  
Wake County Land Cover Analysis and Tree Canopy Assessment -- K. Conley, Sustainability Coordinator  
Tree City and the NC Forest Service -- K. Conley
  - 4.a [Wake County Land Cover Analysis and Tree Canopy Assessment/Tree City and the NC Forest Service](#)  
[MESC WC TCA - LCA Pres.pdf](#)
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Old Business**  
Seed Library Follow-Up  
Litter Collection, ToM Discussion, *J. Brown, Public Works Director*
  - 6.a [Litter Collection](#)  
[Town Hall Drive - Litter.pdf](#)
7. **New Business**
8. **Staff Comments**
9. **Committee Comments**  
Theme for Student Art Poster Contest  
Council Topics for October 4th Meeting
  1. Future/Vision, 2. Current MESOC Initiatives, 3. Funding Opp.

**10. Upcoming Events**

Community Project Funding Solar Press Event -- D. Ross, June 2nd, 10a (MESC invited)

Town Hall Conversation -- D. Ross, June 26th, 6p

Family Fun Festival -- July 3rd, 4-9p, Town Hall Drive

**11. Adjournment**



Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee  
May 4th, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
Historic Christian Church

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NOTE: Minutes are summaries only, reflecting committee action and main points of discussion. For the meeting agenda, presentations and other related agenda materials, click [here](#).

**1. Call to order**

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members Present

*Member Johnson*

*Member Simmons*

*Member Goll-Yekeson*

*Member Chander*

*Member Varadarajan*

*Vice Chair Catalini*

*Member Verghese*

*Chair Wright*

*Member Shunmugam*

Members Absent

*Member Karki*

Staff present

*Jeffery Brown, Public Works  
Director*

*Kimberly Conley, Sustainability  
Coordinator*

*Council Member Fender*

*Brad Gagnon, Stormwater Engineer*

*Ben Mills, Stormwater Engineering  
Manager*

*Mayor TJ Cawley*

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion:** *Member Simmons*

**Second:** *Member Catalini*

**Unanimous vote.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** *Member Simmons*

**Second:** *Member Verghese*

**Unanimous vote.**

**4. Public Comments**

Seed Library – Ranga Narasimhan

Ranga has become an avid gardener over the past few years and enjoys the fruits of his labor. He has lots of seeds from his hobby, but is having a hard time sharing them with those that would like them. He would like the committee to look into starting a

seed bank so that seeds can be shared easily, and more people can have access to gardening.

#### Trash Cans – John Briggs

John added to his presentation from last month. He started going for longer walks and noticed more patterns where trash is being littered. Mr. Briggs wanted to continue to advocate for more trash cans on Town Hall Drive and Shiloh Greenway. He also commented that part of the area may be within Cary's jurisdiction. This led to Vice Chair Catalini suggesting a joint task force between Cary and Morrisville to work on litter removal.

### **5. Old Business**

### **6. New Business**

#### Work Plan – Kimberly Conley

Kimberly shared with the committee that council would like definitive timeframes for the MESC work plan. The plan includes learning about other advisory committees with environmental parallels. Smart Cities and Parks & Rec were suggested as starting points.

#### Education and Outreach – Ongoing

Quarterly Newsletter: Support Sustainability – Quarterly

Collaborating with peer towns (Apex, Cary, etc.) – Bi-Annually

- Desire to evolve this into a true collaboration in order to tackle bigger items, like sustainability champions. Putting ideas forward to zoning and planning for trees was a prime example of such collaboration.

#### Tree City Application – FY24/25

- Requires \$2/capita per tree. Morrisville currently isn't at that threshold and needs more time for more budget
- Wake County and Morrisville will be looking at entire community and how to address their tree canopy

ESG – Environmental and Social Governance

### **7. Staff Comments**

#### Litter Removal Program – Jeffery Brown

Jeff educated the committee on how the Town's budget is spent on litter removal.

- \$64,000 spent replacing trash and recycle cans in the parks. (Approximately \$1,000 per pair)
- \$28,000 – FY23 litter removal contract
  - They only pick up litter along roads weekly. The contract can be expanded, but it takes funds and approval.

- Mowing contractors are also supposed to be picking up litter prior to mowing, per contract.

Jeff also shared that NCDOT Division 5 spent \$2.2 Million in FY23 picking up litter.

His suggestions to remedy the litter issues were:

- Education of HOAs, businesses
- Targeted enforcement
- Additional signage
- Evaluating receptacle locations
- Continuing to use state, county, and local volunteer groups for do more litter removal workdays.

[NCDOT Litterbug Program](#) shared by Mayor TJ Cawley

## 8. Committee Comments

Theme and Timeline for Art Poster Contest – Chair Michelle Wright

Chair Wright would like to get a schedule set up so the winners can be awarded at the December council meeting. The timeline will need to be decided and the [Morrisville Roots for Trees](#) (links to themes spreadsheet) theme will need to be voted on during the June meeting in order to allow proper planning time for all involved.

Council Presentation – Kimberly Conley

Would like the committee to start thinking about the format and topic of the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting Town Council will be attending. Would like the committee to focus on picking three topics that the committee feels strongly about. Kimberly encouraged the committee to have more than Chair Wright speak. It will also be a good opportunity to get feedback ensuring the committee is on the right path to continue to get funding on their projects.

Topics Suggested:

- Tree City
- Funding for more Town employee help
- Funding for Sustainability Plan
- Seed Library
- Food waste/Composting
- Sustainability Champion

Kimberly will have a [Google Doc](#) started for coordination.

Cary is now going to be taking care of the town's FOGs at no cost. A new container is being vinyl wrapped and will replace the 55-gallon drum that is the current FOGs

receptacle in front of the public works facility. Advertising for this benefit will be on social media, in Cary's bill inserts, and at Green Day events.

**9. Upcoming Events**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – Celebrating \$250,000 grant from the Office of Deborah Ross to solarize town facilities

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion:** *Member Simmons*

**Second:** *Member Johnson*

**Unanimous vote**

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Support Staff Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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# MESC

## Wake County LCA/TCA

Kimberly Conley, Sustainability Coordinator  
[kconley@townofmorrisville.org](mailto:kconley@townofmorrisville.org)

# Report Status

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- 1<sup>st</sup> draft of muni-specific report currently in review
- Final report completed by 6/30
- September 12<sup>th</sup> presentation to Council

# Goals

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## **Analyze**

Analyze existing land cover conditions.

## **Evaluate**

Evaluate tree canopy type, health, cover and change over a ten-year span (2010-2020).

## **Measure**

Measure the environmental and socioeconomic impact of tree canopy cover.

## **Identify**

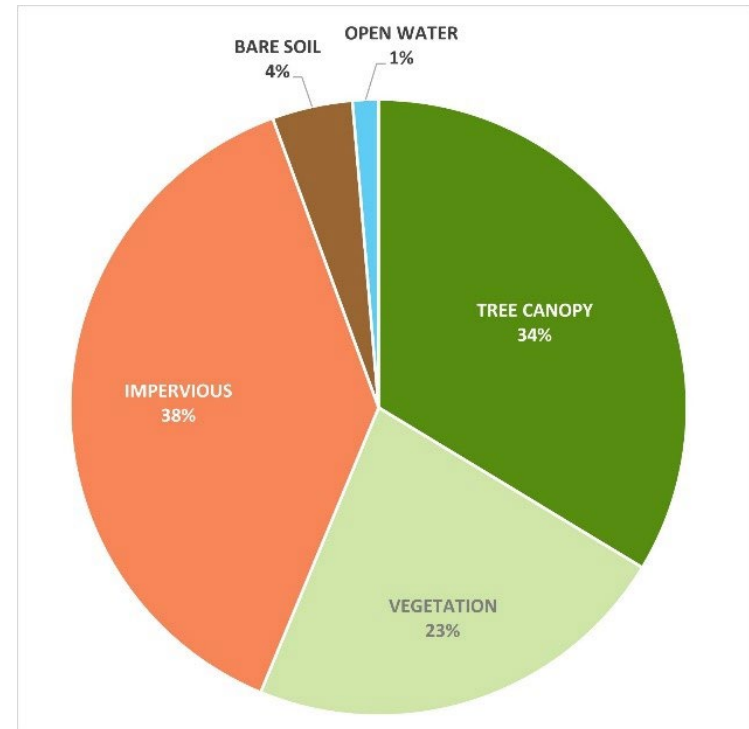
Identify potential opportunities for canopy restoration.

## **Funding**

This project was made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which provided \$5.7 billion to North Carolina for the state's direct use.

# Background

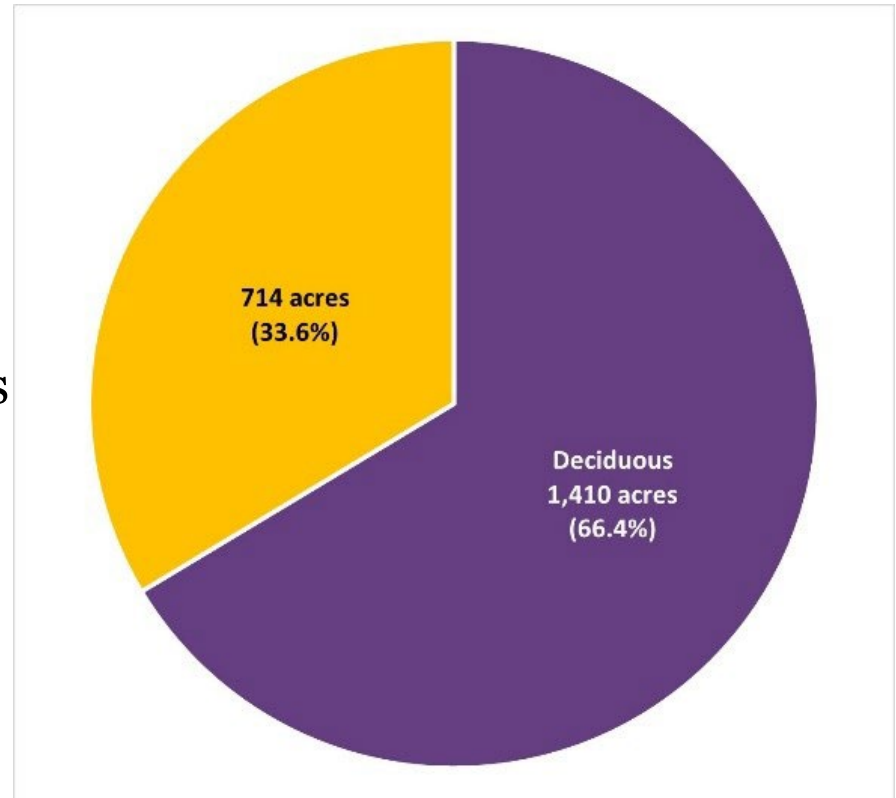
- Incorporated in 1947 and bordered on all sides by RDU, Cary, and the Wake County line, Morrisville encompasses a total land area of **5,666 acres**— equivalent to almost 9 square miles. The town planning jurisdiction includes an additional **638 acres**.
- From 2010-2020, Morrisville’s population climbed from 18,576 to 29,630 residents — an increase of 60%, which is more than six times greater than the growth rate of North Carolina (9.5%) and roughly eight times greater than the national growth rate over the same period (7.4%).



# Canopy Type

Annually, Morrisville's trees:

- Improve air quality by removing a combined 79 tons of pollutants.
- Mitigate surface runoff by capturing 57,820,004 gallons of stormwater.
- Sequester and store 2,959 tons of carbon.
- The annual value of these services is estimated to be \$10,409,702.



# Canopy Change

- From 2010-2020, the Morrisville planning jurisdiction lost a total of 623 canopy acres, equating to a 22.7% overall decrease in the amount of tree canopy. Specific to the corporate limits, the amount of tree canopy declined by 23.3%, resulting in a 9.5% decrease in canopy coverage relative to the other types of land cover.

JURISDICTION	CANOPY ACRES 2020	CANOPY PERCENT 2020	CANOPY ACRES 2010	CANOPY PERCENT 2010	CANOPY CHANGE (Acres)	CANOPY CHANGE (Relative)	CANOPY CHANGE (Absolute)
Corporate Limits	1,781	31.4%	2,322	41.0%	-541	-23.3%	-9.5%
ETJ	342	53.6%	425	66.5%	-82	-24.0%	-12.9%
<b>Planning Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>-623</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>	<b>-9.9%</b>

# Planting Opportunities and Priority

- The analysis identified a total of 10,612 potential planting areas totaling 1,233 acres.
- Three separate measures of community vulnerability: urban heat islands, stormwater, and social equity.
- 12.9% of planting areas rate as Very High Priority (1,370 individual planting areas totaling 139 acres) and an additional 50.9% rank as High Priority (5,406 individual planting areas totaling 507 acres).

