

## Environmental Stewardship Recommendations from the HSF Master Plan Committee

**1. Develop a Park Natural Resource Management Plan.** A Park Natural Resource Management Plan should be developed as soon as possible for City Council adoption. The public at large, including organizations such as the Natural Heritage Program, Wake Audubon Society, the Neuse River Foundation, and Friends of Horseshoe Farm should be invited to have input into the development of this Plan. The Plan should seek to protect the biodiversity and natural heritage of the Park for the long term benefit of the public, as well as identify and target species for monitoring and management, such as the existing native wild turkey population and other native plant and animal species. Efforts should be made to eliminate invasive, non-native species such as microstegium, possibly with the help of volunteers.

**2. Utilize Sustainable Design Principles.** The Raleigh Parks Plan encourages use of US Green Building Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and the "Minnesota Sustainable Design Guide" to ensure high quality sustainable design. Efforts should be made to reach the highest level of LEED certification in the design of new structures such as the Environmental Ed/Arts Center.

**3. Utilize Sustainable Management Practices.** The Raleigh Parks Plan calls for using best management practices for dealing with matters such as storm water reduction. Sustainable practices will minimize the ecological costs of construction and ongoing use, as well as help ensure a healthy ecosystem. These practices also include: using rain water reuse/grey water for irrigation, using non-invasive, native plants, using organic fertilizers, (and) recycling waste products and minimizing disruptive grading of open areas.

**4. Promote Volunteerism and Community Involvement.** Environmental stewardship efforts will be far more effective if the community at large is encouraged to participate in caring for Park resources. A recommendation is made to begin promoting volunteerism in park stewardship efforts as soon as possible after the Master Plan is adopted.

**5. Creation of Wildlife Habitat Zones Advisory Team.** In keeping with the Raleigh Parks Plan's encouragement to use best management practices for habitat restoration projects, a recommendation is made to develop a professional advisory team to assist with design and planning of the transitional wildlife habitat zones called for in this Plan as well as the Butterfly Meadow, the wildflower meadow/neighborhood buffer and other areas set aside as wildlife refuge and habitat areas. In this way, the City can benefit from the free expertise and experience of professional wildlife biologists. In addition to the City Park Staff, this advisory team should include at least one representative each from The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the Wake Audubon Society, a NCSU Extension Service Wildlife Biologist, the Wild Turkey Federation, and the NC Natural Heritage Program.