

USACE approves Buffer Declaration and accepts Planting Plan

The Western Wake Partners included a 200-foot perimeter buffer in the site design for the Western Wake Regional Water Reclamation Facility. The buffer will provide a visual screen and assurance of physical separation between the WRF facilities and our neighbors. EPA strongly supported it. This buffer in conjunction with other design elements of the project was specifically included to minimize impacts to those living closest to the facility. It was an integral part of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determination that when all elements are considered, no significant and adverse impacts are likely to fall on neighboring residents.

Establishing and protecting a 200-foot vegetated buffer around the WRF is a condition of the USACE 404 permit issued for the facility. The Partners prepared a Declaration of Buffer, which describes the activities that are permitted in the buffer area (for example, entering the WRF area by the access road or maintaining utility easements) and documents the Partners' commitment to maintain the vegetation in the buffer area as a visual screen. The USACE approved the Declaration of Buffer, and on July 26, 2011, it was recorded at the Wake County Register of Deeds.

The Partners committed to enhance the buffer in the area along CSX rail right-of-way (at the northwest boundary of the WRF site) which is currently thinly vegetated. Appropriate plants, especially native plants and evergreens, will be planted in this area to enhance the visual screening. The Partners developed and the USACE accepted a detailed planting plan for implementation as part of facility construction.

The Partners have always been committed to providing a vegetated buffer around the perimeter of the WRF site. These documents help provide our neighbors assurance of their long-term preservation.

If you have questions about the buffer area, Declaration, or planting plan for the northwest boundary of the WRF site, please contact the Western Wake Partners at 919-469-4090.