



A healthy environment and strong economy go hand in hand. Governor Cooper's budget adds over \$37 million to protect clean water, safeguard natural resources, grow clean energy, and support businesses committed to environmental stewardship. Investing in these areas invests in public well-being by addressing emerging compounds, improving critical drinking water infrastructure, enhancing parks and natural lands, and helping transition North Carolina to a clean energy economy.

Protecting Our Water Supply

North Carolinians count on a reliable supply of clean, safe water. Governor Cooper's budget invests in clean water through \$6.3 million for water testing and analysis for perfluorinated compounds and other emerging compounds. Governor Cooper's budget also provides more than \$3 million to match additional federal funds for clean water and drinking water infrastructure to increase community access to grant for water and wastewater treatment infrastructure projects.

Reliable, resilient water and sewer systems are vital for public health and economic development and can better withstand natural disasters. The governor's proposed voter-approved bond, Invest NC, includes \$800 million to invest in local water and sewer projects to address the more than \$17 billion in identified infrastructure needs across the state.

Safeguarding Our Natural Resources

Governor Cooper's budget invests an additional \$23 million into safeguarding natural resources and parks, which improve quality of life, public health, the economy, and environmental stewardship. The budget increases funding for local parks and land conservation and restoration to over \$26.4 million for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and over \$29.5 million for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and it brings recurring appropriations for each fund to \$20 million. The budget also allocates \$2.5 million to create the Wildlife Enhancement and Stewardship Fund to help restore habitat at our state's parks, game lands and conservation areas.

Helping Clean Energy and Green Businesses Grow

North Carolina is a national leader in clean energy with opportunities for continued economic growth. Governor Cooper's budget invests \$1.5 million to boost the state's clean energy sector and businesses that prioritize environmental stewardship. The governor's budget funds a study to analyze the ability for the state to support the offshore wind industry, which offers a new clean energy resource with significant economic opportunities for the state, especially for jobs in eastern North Carolina. The budget also supports university energy centers, which provide technical assistance on the use of clean energy and enabling technologies and expands the Environmental Stewardship Initiative to help businesses that choose to implement practices that are good for both the environment and economy.

Improving Access to North Carolina's Natural Resources

North Carolina's natural resources are one of the state's distinguishing features. Governor Cooper's budget invests nearly \$3.7 million to enhance access to our state's parks and natural areas. The budget will support operations of facilities funded through Connect NC, trail maintenance and development, and creation of a Great Carolina Trails Master Plan. The budget also invests in teacher training to increase outdoor experiential science education and in the Conservation Corps of North Carolina, which connects young adults to North Carolina's natural and cultural resources through work experience in the state's parks.