

2023 / 2024 Annual Report

Water First

# Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group



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# Message from Our Chairman

Dear Members and Supporters,

I am honored to present the 2023/2024 annual report of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG). As Chair, I am proud to share the significant achievements and progress we have made in prioritizing, managing, and advocating for water resources over the past year. This year's theme, "Water First," underscores our commitment to reevaluating and reshaping the role that water plays in our daily lives, public health, and economic development.

The Catawba-Wateree River Basin is an invaluable resource for our region, providing essential drinking water, electric power production, recreational opportunities, and fostering economic growth. Recognizing its critical importance, we have placed the highest priority on the sustainable management of this resource. Over the past year, the CWWMG has diligently worked to balance the water needs of all users while safeguarding the health of the river Basin.

We are excited to welcome the cities of Concord and Tega Cay as our newest members! Concord and Tega Cay are the first to join our organization under the expanded membership option of Utility Member. We look forward to continued collaboration to help preserve, extend, and enhance the capabilities of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.

#### **Advancement of the Integrated Water Resources Plan:**

Significant progress has been made on the Integrated Water Resources Plan, striving for a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to managing water resources in the Basin.

#### **Source Water Protection through Land Conservation Grants:**

Recognizing the significance of source water protection, we have awarded \$170,000 in grants to help protect approximately 460 acres of critical land within the Basin to date. These efforts include key acquisitions in areas such as the Johns River Headwaters, Hoyle Creek, Forney Creek, Paddy Creek, Canoe Creek, and Wilson Creek. By preserving these natural lands, we enhance water quality and availability, mitigate contamination risks, stabilize water flows, and maintain groundwater levels.

**Outreach and Education Initiatives:** Our annual Water for All Summit and Citizens' Water Academy have played pivotal roles in engaging and educating the public about water management. This year's summit was our largest to date, bringing in new supporters around the topic of "Water First."

As we look to the future, the CWWMG remains steadfast in our commitment to collaboration, innovation, and sustainability in managing this vital resource. We are resolute in ensuring that the Catawba-Wateree River Basin remains healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and continued interest in the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group. Together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes and make a lasting impact on the preservation and stewardship of this shared resource.

Yours sincerely,



**Jimmy Bagley, PE**

Chair, Catawba-Wateree Water  
Management Group



# Our Story

## Mission

The Mission of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group is to identify, fund, and manage projects that will help preserve, extend, and enhance the capabilities of the Catawba-Wateree River to provide water resources for human needs while maintaining the ecological integrity of the waterway.

## Vision

The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group envisions a future with a sustainable water source achieved through proactive planning, cutting edge research, and water shortage preparedness.



# Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group: From Formation to Present Day Impact

The Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group (CWWMG) was established following a thorough 3.5-year stakeholder process related to Duke Energy's re-licensing of the Catawba-Wataree Hydro Project (FERC Project No. 2232). This process concluded in the summer of 2006 with the signing of the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) by 70 parties. The CRA provided a framework for managing the Basin over the next 40 to 50 years. In addition, the CRA called for establishment of a water management group. The resulting CWWMG was officially incorporated on December 6, 2007, comprising 20 members from the original 70-party CRA group. The group's formation was accelerated by growing concerns about water supply and drought conditions, which led members to initiate voluntary meetings.

The inaugural meeting of the CWWMG was held at York Technical College's Baxter Hood Center. During this meeting, the group elected officers and approved a five-year plan focusing on conservation, coordination, and drought response improvements.

## Key Objectives and Early Achievements

The initial goals of the CWWMG included extending the shared water supply, developing strategies for long-term reductions in per capita water use, and studying other water resource organizations for potential improvements. A comprehensive Basin-wide drought management and communication plan was also prioritized. Duke Energy underscored the cooperative spirit of the Group by presenting a \$150,630 check to cover the first year's dues.

The CRA and already existing CWWMG formed the basis for the Settlement Agreement resolving the US Supreme Court case South Carolina v. North Carolina (No. 138) in December 2010. As part of the settlement, both states agreed to work with the CWWMG to fund the update of the 2006 Water Supply Study at least every 10 years, sharing the costs among the group, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

## Growing Membership and Collaborative Efforts

Over the years, the CWWMG's membership has expanded to include 20 organizations, comprising 19 public water utilities and Duke Energy Carolinas. Notable additions include The City of Statesville in 2009, the Town of Mooresville in 2011, and the cities of Concord and Tega Cay in 2024. These members work collaboratively to balance water use and conservation, ensuring the health of the river system while meeting stakeholder demands.



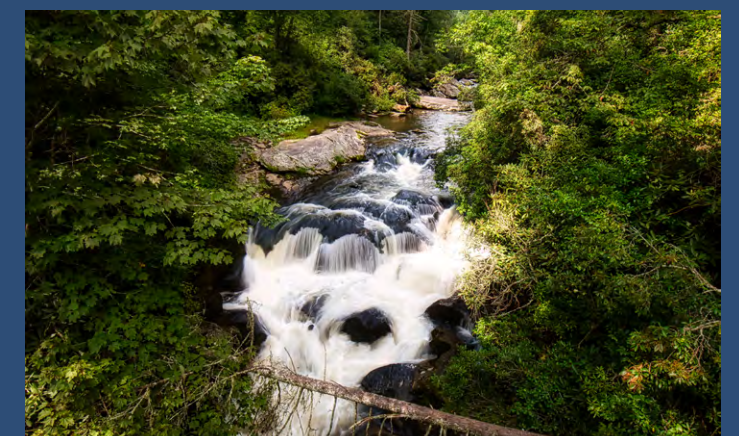
## Key Milestones and Initiatives

- **2014:** Publication of the first water supply update, the Water Supply Master Plan, provided a strategic framework for sustainable water resource management.
- **November 2015:** A 40-year new license was issued by FERC, followed by the approval of all new license amendments in January 2018.
- **Public Education and Engagement:** The CWWMG has prioritized public education through initiatives like the annual Water for All Summit and the Citizens' Water Academy, fostering community involvement and raising awareness about water issues.
  - ✦ 2017: The first Water for All Summit was held, welcoming just over 100 attendees. By 2024, attendance had doubled, highlighting the growing interest and engagement in water management issues.
  - ✦ 2019: The inaugural Citizens' Water Academy was launched with a select group of 15 participants, designed to educate and empower community members on water resource management. The academy has grown significantly in size with this year's cohort boasting 27 graduates, further highlighting the importance of professional development in water management and community

## Current Focus and Future Directions

Today, the CWWMG continues to play a crucial role in managing the Catawba-Wataree River Basin. Key initiatives include the development of the Integrated Water Resources Plan, source water protection through land conservation grants, and coordinated efforts to manage stormwater and reduce water loss.

The Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group has come a long way since its formation in 2007. Through collaboration, innovative strategies, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability, the CWWMG has ensured equitable access to clean water for all residents of the Catawba-Wataree River Basin. The Group's ongoing efforts continue to safeguard this invaluable resource, providing a blueprint for effective water management practices nationwide.



## July 2003

Duke Energy and stakeholders begin process to relicense the Catawba-Wateree Project (FERC Project No. 2232)

## Dec 6, 2007

Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group Officially Formed

## 2009

City of Statesville joins

## 2011

Town of Mooresville joins

## Nov 2015

40-yr New License issued by FERC

## Jan 2018

FERC approves all New License amendments

## Summer 2006

70 parties sign binding Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

## 2008

Town of Longview joins

## 2010

SC v. NC US Supreme Court Case settled largely by compliance with CRA

## 2014

Water Supply Master Plan

## 2017

The first Water for All Summit was held

## 2019

The inaugural Citizens' Water Academy was launched

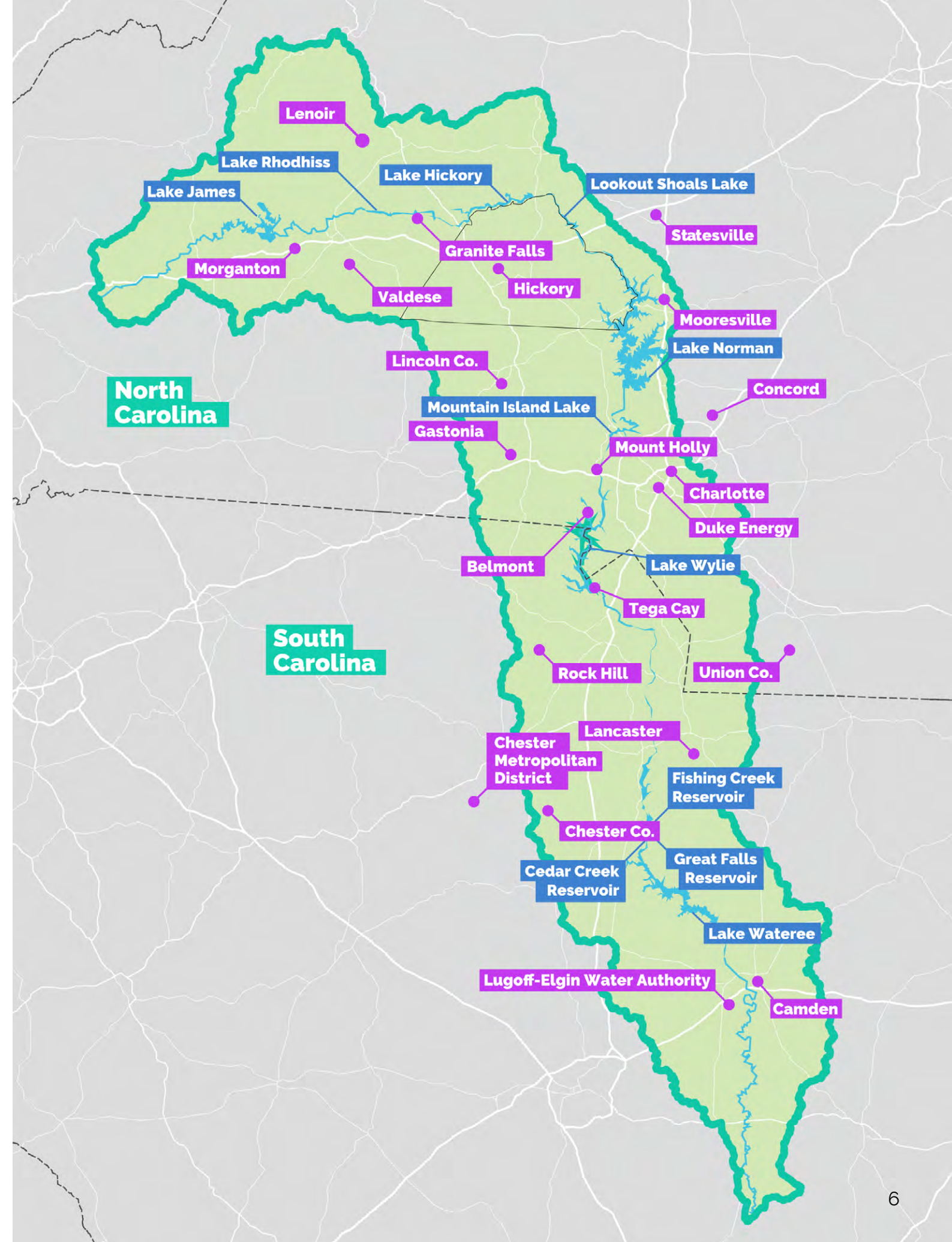
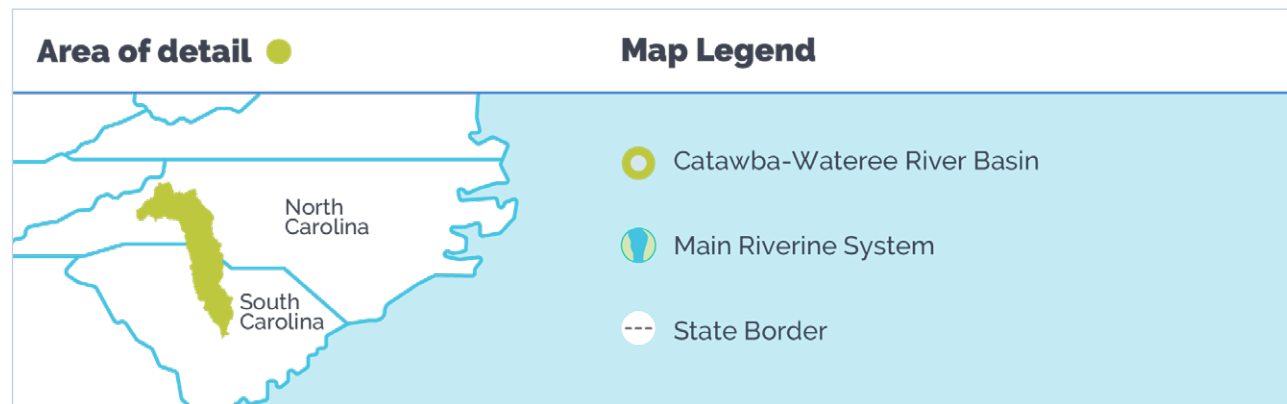
# Our Members

The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) plays a vital role in managing the water resources that support over two million residents in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. With a focus on sustainability and collaboration, the CWWMG includes 20 member organizations, comprised of public water utilities from North Carolina and South Carolina, as well as Duke Energy Carolinas.

These member organizations work together to address water resource and water quality challenges within the Basin. By meeting regularly, they develop and implement innovative strategies to ensure a sustainable water future for the Catawba-Wateree River.

## Newest Members: Concord and Tega Cay

We are excited to announce the expansion of our membership with the inclusion of the cities of Concord and Tega Cay. These cities are the first to join under the expanded membership option of Utility Member. Their participation will further enhance our collective efforts to preserve, extend, and enhance the capabilities of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.



## Eligibility for CWWMG Membership

Organizations eligible to join the CWWMG include:

- Water utilities operating anywhere in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin, including the South Fork and other tributaries, as well as private utility companies.
- Water utilities using water from the Catawba-Wateree River Basin to serve customers in other river Basins.
- Members of the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group, including commercial entities that own a water intake within the Catawba-Wateree River Basin or own a water treatment plant or distribution system within the Basin.

## Commitment to a Sustainable Future

The addition of Concord and Tega Cay underscores the growing commitment to collaborative water management. The CWWMG continues to prioritize water sustainability amidst challenges such as climate change and population growth. Our collective efforts aim to mitigate the impacts of these challenges, ensuring that the Catawba-Wateree River Basin remains a resilient resource for generations to come.

Through regular collaboration, innovative strategies, and an expanded membership, the CWWMG is well-positioned to continue its mission of managing the water resources of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin effectively and sustainably. We welcome our new members and look forward to achieving remarkable outcomes together.

## Current Member Organizations

### North Carolina

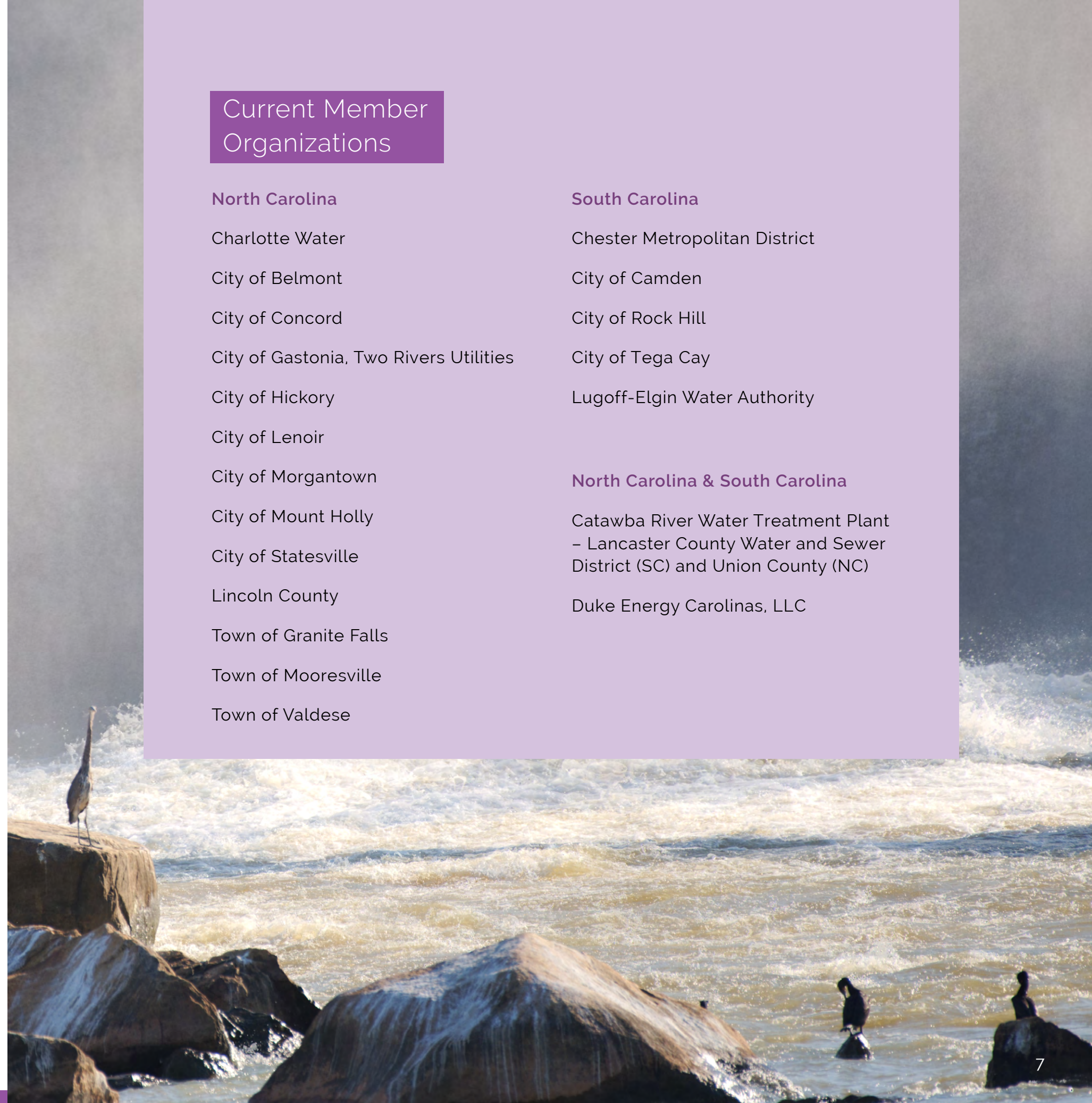
Charlotte Water  
City of Belmont  
City of Concord  
City of Gastonia, Two Rivers Utilities  
City of Hickory  
City of Lenoir  
City of Morgantown  
City of Mount Holly  
City of Statesville  
Lincoln County  
Town of Granite Falls  
Town of Mooresville  
Town of Valdese

### South Carolina

Chester Metropolitan District  
City of Camden  
City of Rock Hill  
City of Tega Cay  
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority

### North Carolina & South Carolina

Catawba River Water Treatment Plant  
– Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (SC) and Union County (NC)  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC

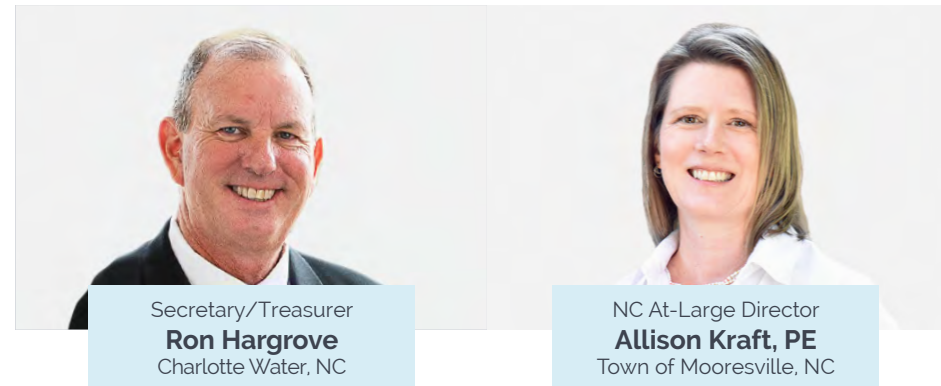


# Our Board



Chair  
**Jimmy Bagley, PE**  
City of Rock Hill, SC

Vice-Chair  
**Jeff Lineberger, PE**  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC



Secretary/Treasurer  
**Ron Hargrove**  
Charlotte Water, NC

NC At-Large Director  
**Allison Kraft, PE**  
Town of Mooresville, NC



SC At-Large Director  
**Brad Bucy, PE**  
Lancaster County Water & Sewer District, SC

# Advisory Committee

Our Advisory Committee is composed of nine to ten committee members with varying backgrounds and expertise in the water resource management industry. To ensure continual alignment with our mission and vision, the Advisory Committee members provide guidance and external perspectives about our Group's general direction, governance, and strategic plans.



**Vicki Taylor**  
Environment  
(Chair)

**Calvin Sawyer, PhD**  
Academic/Research

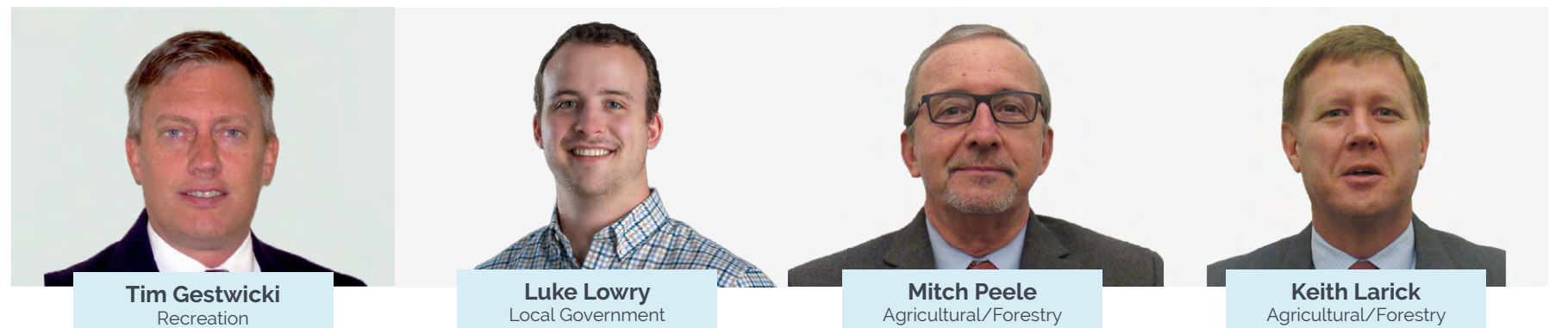


**Shirley Greene**  
Residential Landowner of Project or River Frontage

**Robert Long, CECD**  
Economic Development

**Ray Paterson**  
Regulatory/State Government

**Wesley Wightman, PE**  
Industrial/Business



**Tim Gestwicki**  
Recreation

**Luke Lowry**  
Local Government

**Mitch Peele**  
Agricultural/Forestry

**Keith Larick**  
Agricultural/Forestry



# State of the Basin

The Catawba-Wateree River is a powerful yet finite natural resource that supports and connects communities across North Carolina and South Carolina. Originating in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Catawba River flows southeast, becoming the Wateree River within Lake Wateree, and ultimately joins the Congaree River to form the Santee River near St. Matthews, SC. Spanning 376 miles, the Catawba-Wateree River system includes 11 interconnected reservoirs and serves the 5,680 square-mile Catawba-Wateree River Basin. This Basin provides water for communities from Morganton, NC to Camden, SC, and supports approximately one-fifth of Duke Energy's power generation capacity in the Carolinas.

## About the River

The Catawba-Wateree River Basin is crucial, providing water for about two million people and generating enough energy to power over four million homes. It is also a biodiverse environment, offering essential habitats for numerous species of animals and plants, as well as recreational amenities for residents and visitors.

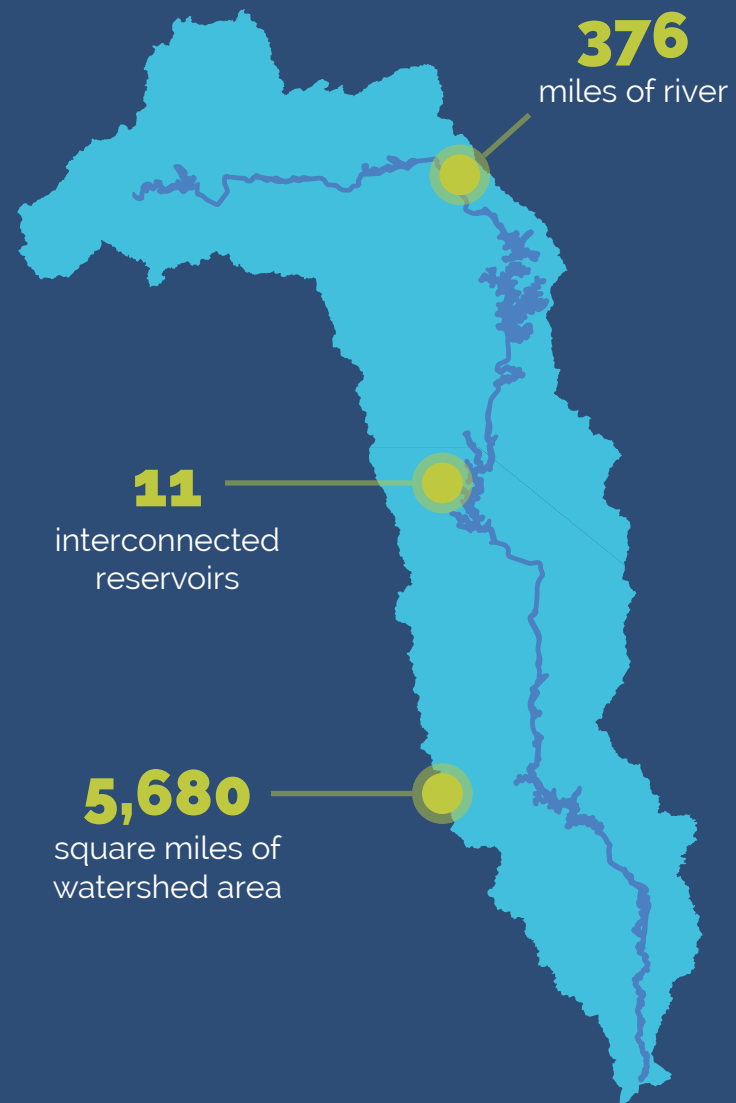
**Length:** 376 miles of river

**Reservoirs:** 11 interconnected

**Watershed Area:** 5,680 square miles

**Drainage:** All land areas inside the Basin boundary drain to the river.

**Size:** The Basin is relatively narrow (30 miles wide) and small, the 6th largest of 17 Basins in NC and the smallest of 8 in SC.



## The Lakes and Their Roles

The 11 lakes on the mainstem, built primarily for power generation, now serve multiple roles:

**Surface Area:** Nearly 80,000 acres

**Shoreline:** 1,800 miles

**Historic Significance:** The first river Basin in the US comprehensively planned and developed for electricity production.

While originally built for power production, these lakes now support public water supply, industry, agriculture, recreation, waste assimilation, and a rich diversity of plants and wildlife. The Catawba-Wateree River basin is one of the most densely populated river Basins in the Carolinas. All of these uses are crucial, with power production and water supply seen as equal human priorities.

## Water Resource Uses

The Catawba-Wateree River provides water resources for:



### Public Water Supply

Direct source for 17 public water suppliers



### Renewable Energy

Utilized by 12 hydropower stations



### Thermo-electric Energy

Utilized by 6 nuclear and fossil-fueled power stations



### Agriculture

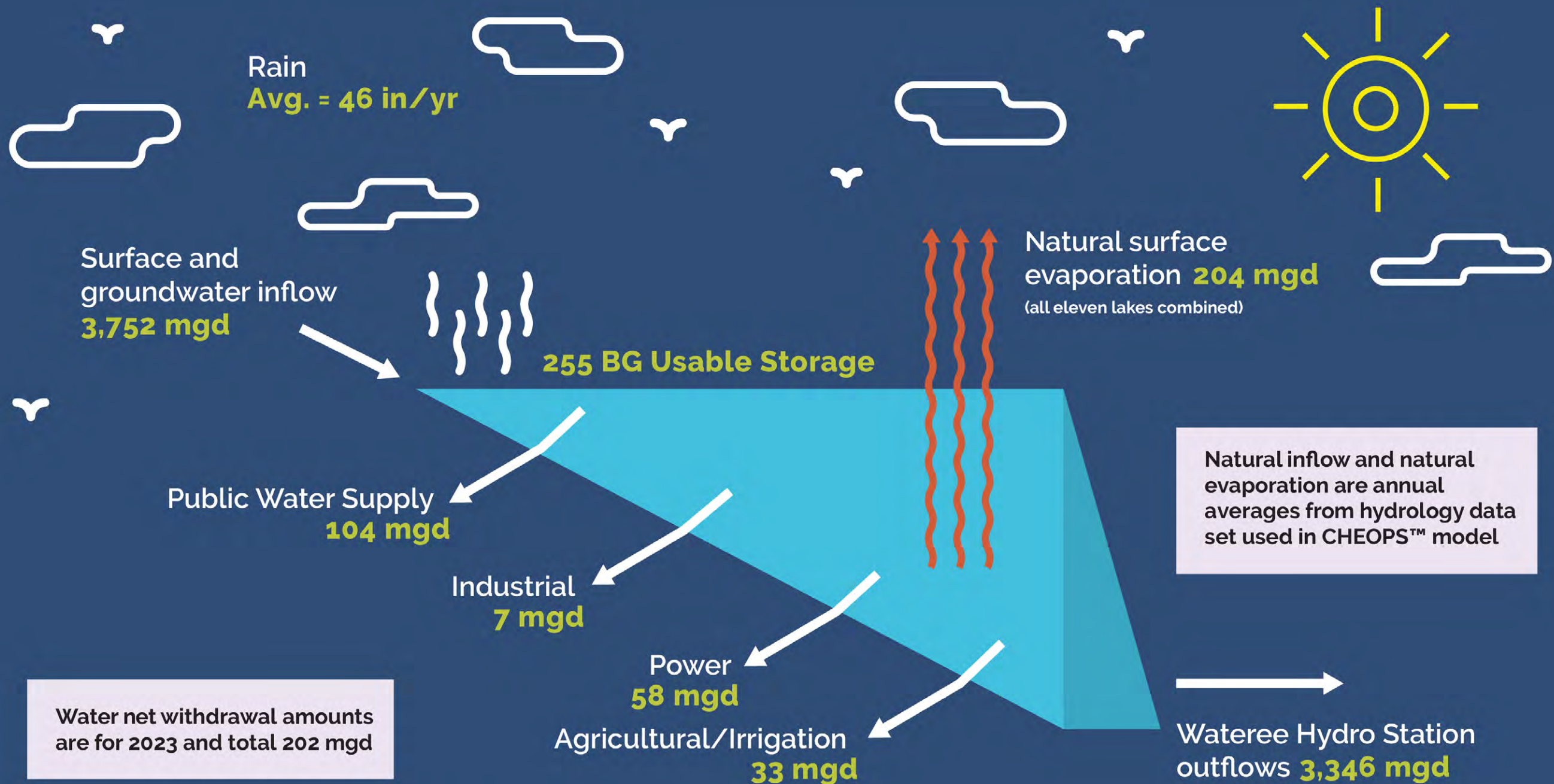


### Recreation



### Biodiversity

Supports a rich diversity of plants and animals



\* mgd = million gallons per day; BG = Billion Gallons.

## Challenges and Adaptations

The Basin system is driven by rainfall, which is increasing due to climate change. While people influence public water supply, industrial use, power generation, and agricultural irrigation; rainfall, natural surface evaporation, and groundwater inflow are beyond human control. Notably, natural evaporation can exceed all human consumption. The lakes in the Basin play a

critical role by acting as a regional water savings account. They change the timing of water availability rather than increasing the overall supply, enabling the region to support its population.

The Catawba-Wateree River Basin, though modest in size, is a workhorse for our region, balancing multiple demands

on its water resources. The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group prioritizes sustainable management practices to ensure this vital resource supports our communities now and in the future. Through collaboration and innovative strategies, we aim to maintain the health and vibrancy of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin for generations to come.

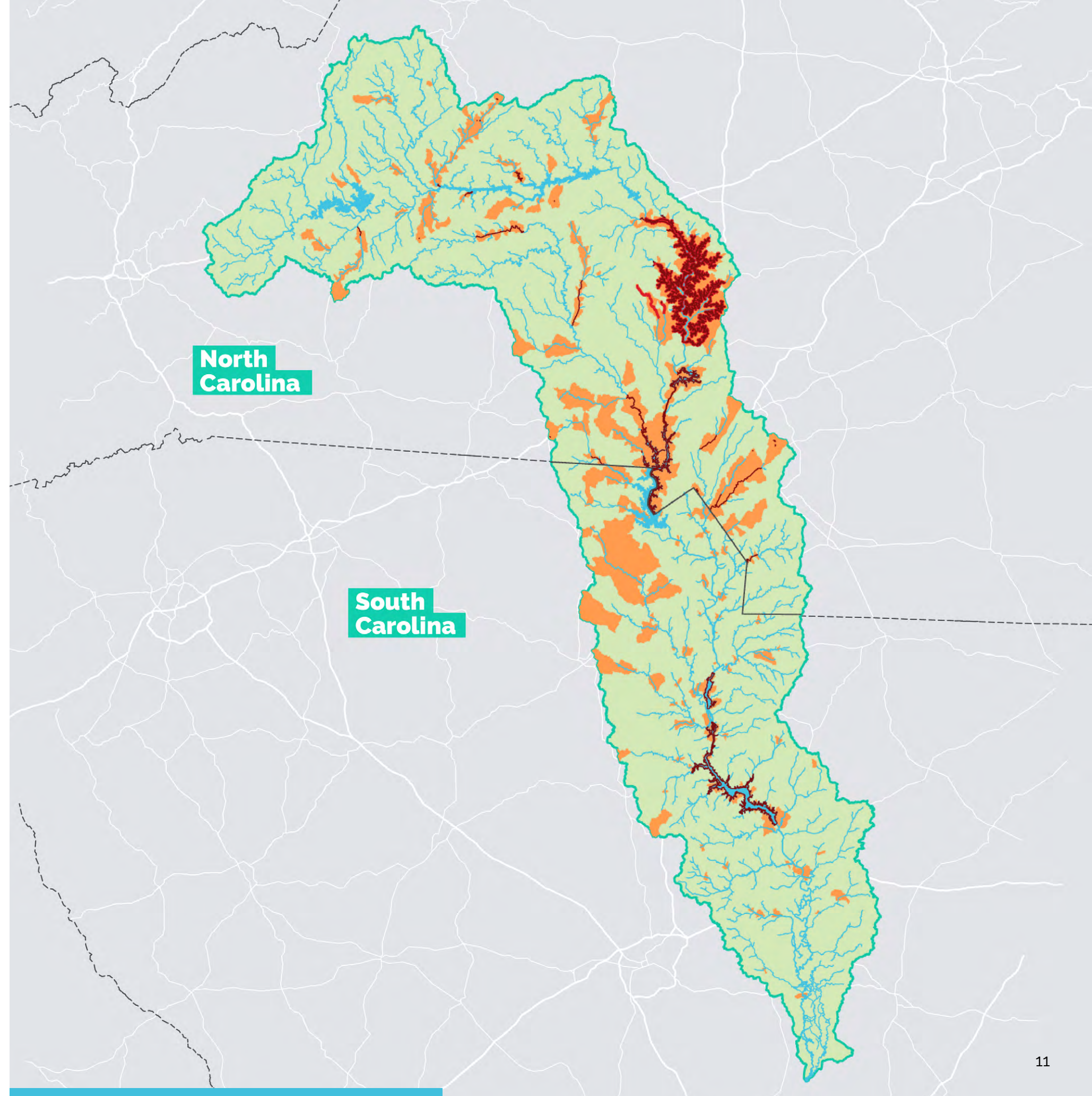
# Impaired Waters

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines impaired water bodies as those failing to meet water quality standards due to various pollutants, including excessive nutrients, sedimentation, and toxic substances. To identify impaired waters in North and South Carolina, the EPA maintains the "303(d) List," which outlines water bodies that do not meet designated uses, such as fishing, swimming, or drinking water supply, as mandated by the Clean Water Act's Section 303(d).

Within the Catawba-Wataree region, several water bodies have earned a spot on the 303(d) List. These impaired waters encompass streams, lakes, and watersheds that have been adversely affected by pollution from industrial discharges, stormwater runoff, and agricultural activities. The inclusion of these water bodies on the list serves as a call to action, highlighting the need for restoration efforts to improve water quality and ecological health.

## Map Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Impaired Watershed   |  Streams & Waterbodies |
|  Impaired Waterbodies |  Basin Outline         |
|  Impaired Streams     |  State Line            |
- 



# Water Demand

**2023**

**Net Water Withdrawn from Basin:  
202 million gallons per day**

💧 = 1M Gallons

6.8  
Industrial

103.8  
Public Water Systems

32.8  
Agricultural/Irrigation

58.5  
Power



**2075**

**Future Projected Net Water Withdrawal  
from Catawba-Wateree River:  
354 million gallons per day**

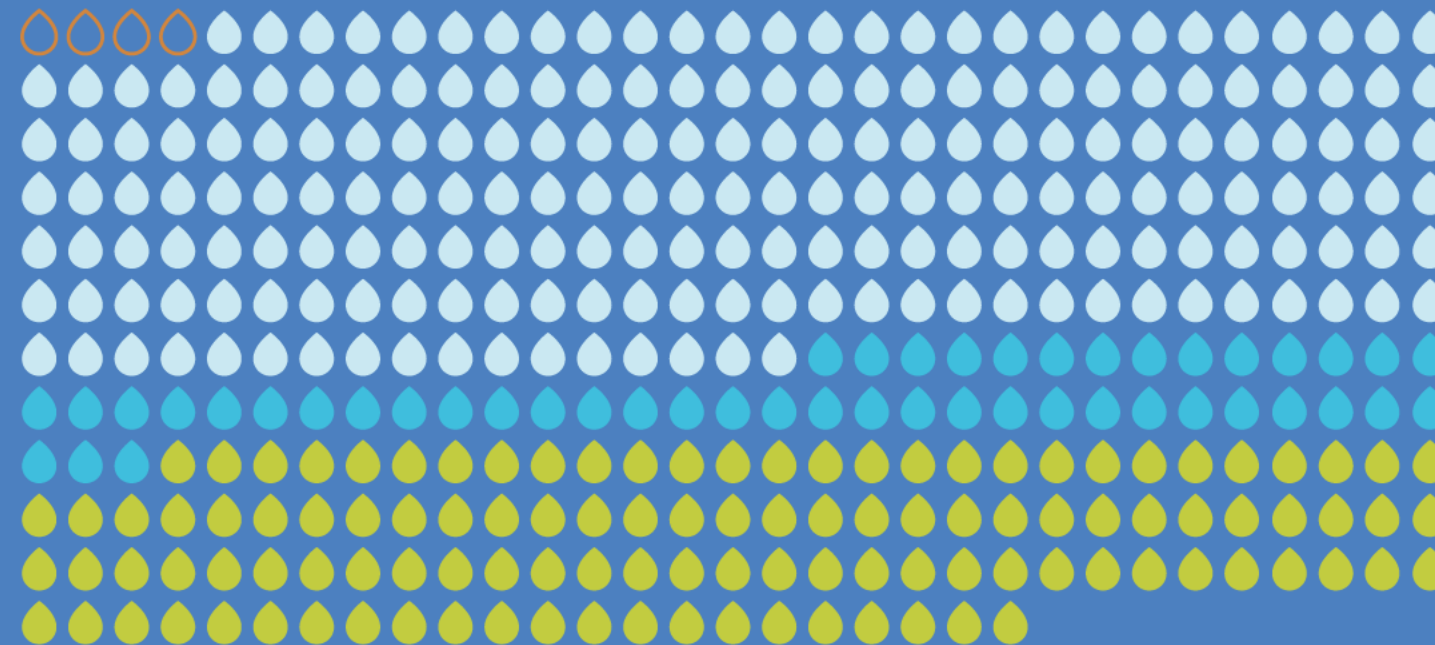
💧 = 1M Gallons

-4  
Industrial

199  
Public Water Systems

47  
Agricultural/Irrigation

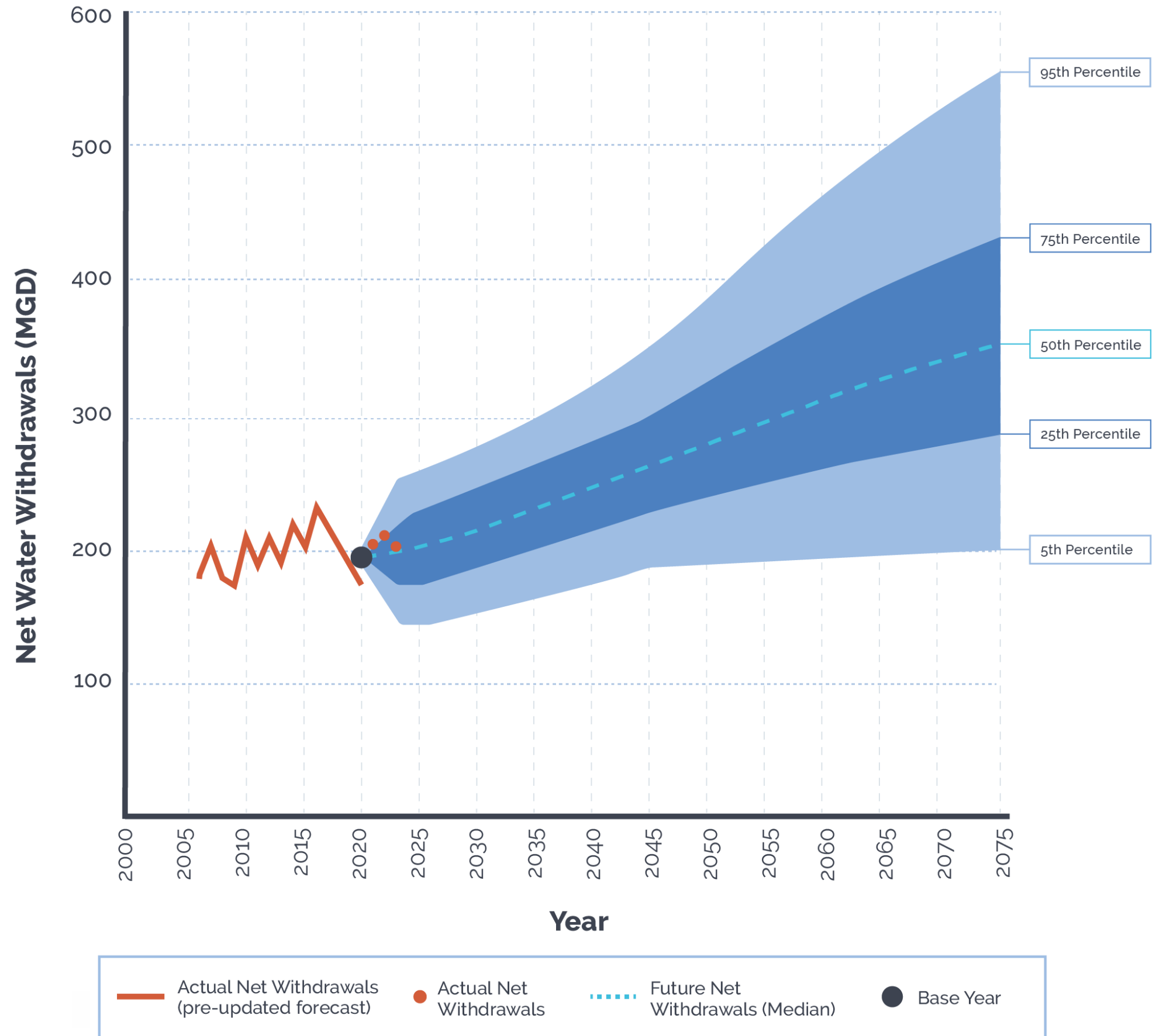
111.9  
Power



# Projected vs Actual Net Withdrawal

As part of our new Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP), we are updating water demand projections to provide reliable water withdrawal and return forecasts for the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. These new projections extend to the year 2075, expand the Basin boundary, and account for a range of potential variations such as droughts and heavy rain that can impact water usage.

The 50th percentile forecast represents the most likely future net withdrawals, with a 90 percent chance that the long-term flow withdrawal trend will be somewhere in between the two extremes. These ranges provide a valuable perspective on the potential impacts of reliably meeting future treatment capacity needs.



# How We're Putting Water First

Transformational changes in the Catawba-Wataree River Basin are actively underway, demonstrating our commitment to prioritizing water in all aspects of regional planning and development. These initiatives involve numerous stakeholders, all working together to ensure a sustainable water future. However, we need even more hands to join this crucial effort. There are countless opportunities to make a difference, and all our efforts can benefit from additional support.

**These project examples showcase the collective work not only of CWWMG but also of our members and partners, demonstrating the shared efforts of numerous organizations throughout the Basin. Together, CWWMG, our members, and many others are actively working across the region to put Water First.**

South Point Park

2

1

Allison Creek Park

## Integrated Water Resources Plan

We are collaborating with HDR, the University of Pennsylvania Water Center, and RTI to develop and implement a comprehensive Integrated Water Resources Plan. This effort involves a Stakeholder Advisory Team and key agencies like the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

## Public Recreation Improvements

Enhancing public access to recreational opportunities is a priority. Initiatives include improvements to parks in York County and Tega Cay, providing residents and visitors with better facilities to enjoy the river and its surroundings.

# Lake Wylie Recreation Improvements

## 1 Allison Creek Park



Allison Creek Park, situated on Lake Wylie, is a prime example of a successful public recreation investment. This project involved intensive site development with construction costs shared between Duke Energy and York County, while the land was provided at no cost. York County manages the park, which stands as the largest Duke Energy investment to date in a single recreation area.

**FEATURES:**

- Boat ramps
- Courtesy docks
- RV Park
- Canoeing
- Playground
- Picnicking
- Walking trail
- Fishing pier
- Restrooms
- Bathhouse
- Lighted parking

**PARTNERS:**

- Duke Energy
- York County

## 2 South Point Park



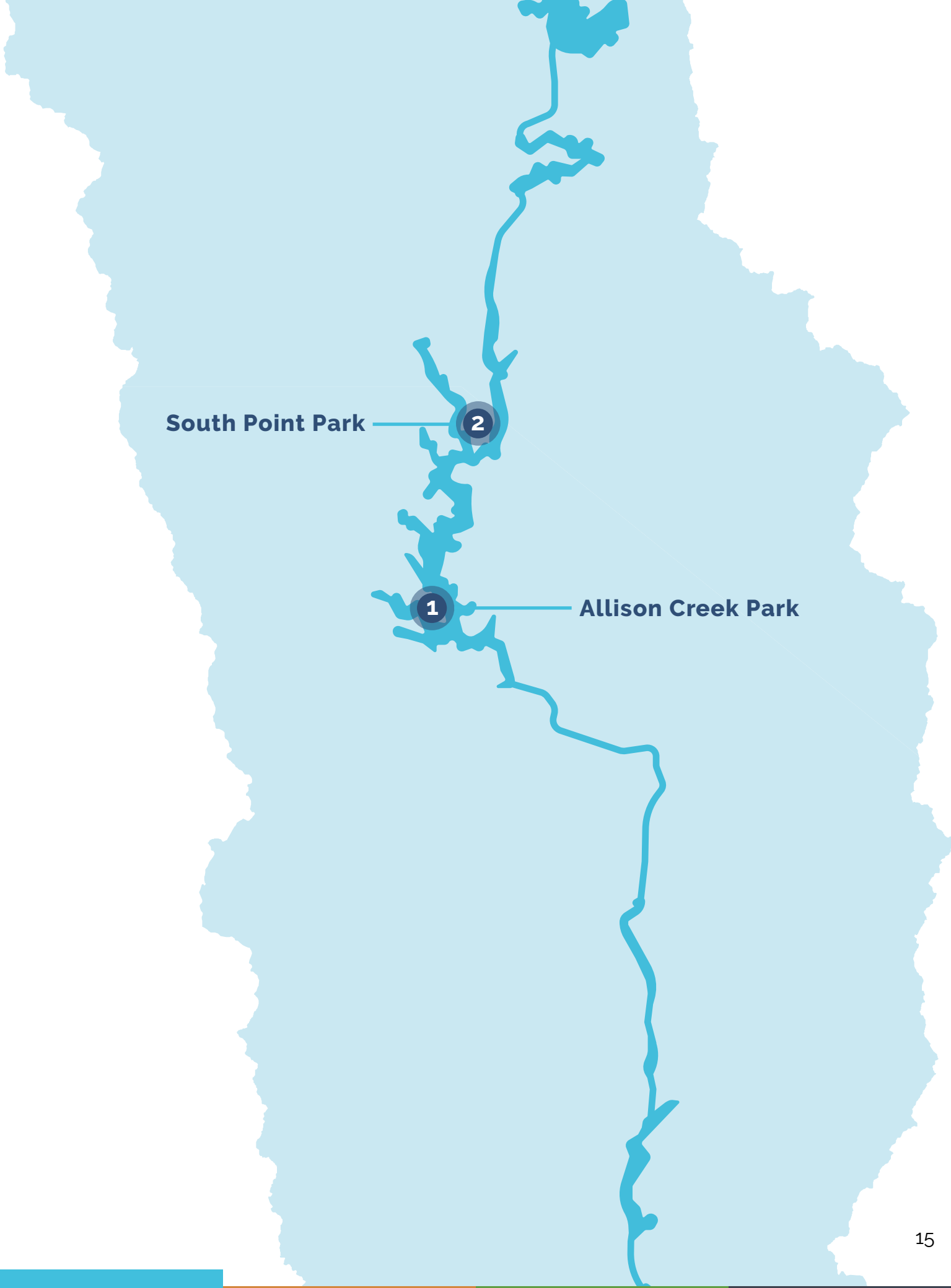
South Point Park on Lake Wylie is another heavily utilized public recreation area, showcasing an excellent partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The facilities, all newly developed, highlight the first Duke Energy access area leased to Gaston County. A key focus of the relicensing effort was to provide more opportunities for non-boaters to enjoy the lakes, fostering a deeper connection to the river.

**FEATURES:**

- Boat ramps
- Courtesy docks
- Walking trail
- Swim beach
- Picnicking
- Fishing piers
- Restrooms
- Lighted parking
- Kayak launch

**PARTNERS:**

- Duke Energy
- Gaston County
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission



## Other Projects from CWMMG members throughout the basin.



### Coordinated Efforts Against Invasive Species

We are working with the Lake Norman Marine Commission, NC State, and various funding partners to combat invasive species that threaten the health of our waterways, particularly Lake Norman, Wylie, and Mountain Island.



### Water Loss Management Initiatives

Member organizations like Chester Metropolitan District are working to drive efforts to manage and reduce water loss, ensuring more efficient use of our water resources.



### Source Water Protection Partnerships

Our partnerships with the Catawba Lands Conservancy, Catawba Riverkeeper, Foothills Conservancy, and Katawba Valley Land Trust are crucial for protecting the quality and availability of source water in the Basin.



### Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility at Lake Wylie

Charlotte Water, Mount Holly, and Belmont are collaborating on a regional wastewater treatment facility to better manage and treat wastewater, improving water quality and quantity in Lake Wylie.



### Updated Shoreline Management Requirements

The Shoreline Management Work Group is updating requirements to ensure the sustainable use and protection of our shoreline areas.



### Inflatable Gates at Wateree Dam

Duke Energy installed inflatable gates at Wateree Dam to enhance water management capabilities, especially during high-water events.

These initiatives represent just a few of the many efforts underway to put water first in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. We encourage everyone to get involved and contribute to these and other important projects. Together, we can ensure a sustainable and vibrant future for our water resources.



# Our Work



## INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLAN

Practical Solutions for a Sustainable Future

In 2006, we realized that during drought conditions, communities in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin could possibly face water shortages within the next 50 years. Without significant efforts to manage our shared water resources more efficiently, communities could see a time when there is not enough water flowing in the Catawba-Wateree River to support our region's growing population and economy.

Since 2007, the CWWMG has been working with our regional partners to plan for and implement sustainable water resource management strategies. In 2014, this work culminated in publication of a Basin-wide Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP). The CWWMG is committed to regularly updating the Plan as part of on-going water resource planning and in compliance with the 10-year update provision required by the 2010 Settlement Agreement for South Carolina v. North Carolina (U. S. Supreme Court, Original Case No. 138).

In 2021, the CWWMG began updating the WSMP and rebranded the effort as the Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) to better represent the CWWMG's comprehensive approach to long-term planning considering water supply, water demand, water quality, and source water protection. The project team includes nationally renowned water resource experts, who will work over the next few years to update and expand on the work included in the original plan.



**Year 1: 2021** The approach for the IWRP is to embrace uncertainty about the future to facilitate a robust planning process. Year 1 of the IWRP focused on developing a IWRP Steering Committee to help guide IWRP, updating water use projections for the entire Catawba-Wateree River Basin boundary to 2075, identifying water quality priorities, and establishing key scenarios for future evaluations. These scenarios combine climate variability, changes in land use and water regulations, and varying water demand.

**Year 2: 2022** of the IWRP included a deeper dive on water quality issues, developing an updated dataset for inflows to the Basin over time, and updating the WaterFALL hydrologic model. Regulatory and community engagement is an integral part of the IWRP. The project team is actively engaging a Stakeholder Advisory Team of regulators and community stakeholders to gain insights on the needs of different water users and influencers throughout the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.

**Year 3: 2023** focused on finalizing model updates and conducting comprehensive evaluations pertaining to water quantity and quality. The project team utilized advanced tools and methodologies to model and assess the availability and quality of water throughout the Basin. The objective is to gain insights into how these factors might vary over the next fifty years, taking into consideration the impact of changing weather patterns, population dynamics, and evolving land use practices.

To ensure a more accurate representation of the current conditions in the Basin, the project team updated the CHEOPS reservoir model. By incorporating these new data points, the model will provide a more precise depiction of the current state of the Basin.

Additionally, a comprehensive strategic marketing plan was developed with the aim of increasing public awareness and promoting the adoption of the Plan and its recommendations.

**Year 4: 2024** activities focus on developing final water quantity and quality evaluations for the river Basin. These evaluations will drive final recommendations and implementation plans to support the project's goals to create a resilient and reliable water supply. In addition, the project team will evaluate economic impacts of key Plan recommendations and quantify the economic impact of water within the Basin. Together, these activities will define strategies to increase future water availability, address present water quality concerns, and contextualize economic impacts tied to these potential strategies.

# Protecting Water by Protecting Lands

Protecting source water in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin is essential for ensuring high-quality drinking water. The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) actively safeguards the Basin's water by implementing strategic conservation measures, focusing on preserving natural lands to protect water sources. These efforts help mitigate contamination risks, stabilize water flows, and maintain groundwater levels. Source water protection is a cost-effective approach to maintaining water quality and quantity. CWWMG has invested \$170,000 in grants, helping our land trust partners protect approximately 460 acres of critical land, ensuring a reliable and safe water supply for our communities.

## Source Water Protection Investments

### In 2023

#### Johns River Headwaters Conservation Project

CWWMG awarded a \$40,000 grant to Foothills Conservancy to help purchase 332 acres of undeveloped, forested land in the headwaters of the Catawba River Basin adjoining US Highway 321, The Blowing Rock attraction and the Pisgah National Forest in Caldwell County for permanent conservation.

#### Jack Moore Preserve Addition (Hoyle Creek)

CWWMG awarded \$30,000 grant to the Catawba Lands Conservancy to help purchase a 6.2-acre wooded property located in the Hoyle Creek watershed in Gaston County, North Carolina. The project adds to a 99.8-acre conservation area and closes a large gap protruding into the conservation area.

### Past Grants

#### Forney Creek Stream Restoration Project

CWWMG provided a \$20,000 grant to the Catawba Lands Conservancy to help purchase a 1.9-acre property in the Forney Creek watershed in eastern Lincoln County. This newly purchased property is now part of the larger 470-acre Forney Creek Conservation Area and provides a critical link for future stream restoration plans for this watershed.

#### Paddy Creek Land Acquisition

CWWMG provided a \$20,000 grant to the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina to help purchase a 27-acre property in Burke County, which included 1,950 linear feet along Paddy Creek. Paddy Creek is a direct tributary to Lake James in the headwaters of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. This newly purchased property is now part of a 180+ acre parcel under conservation easement by the Foothills Conservancy and will be part of a conservation project to reestablish a 300-foot riparian buffer along Paddy Creek, which will help protect water quality in Lake James.

#### Canoe Creek Restoration

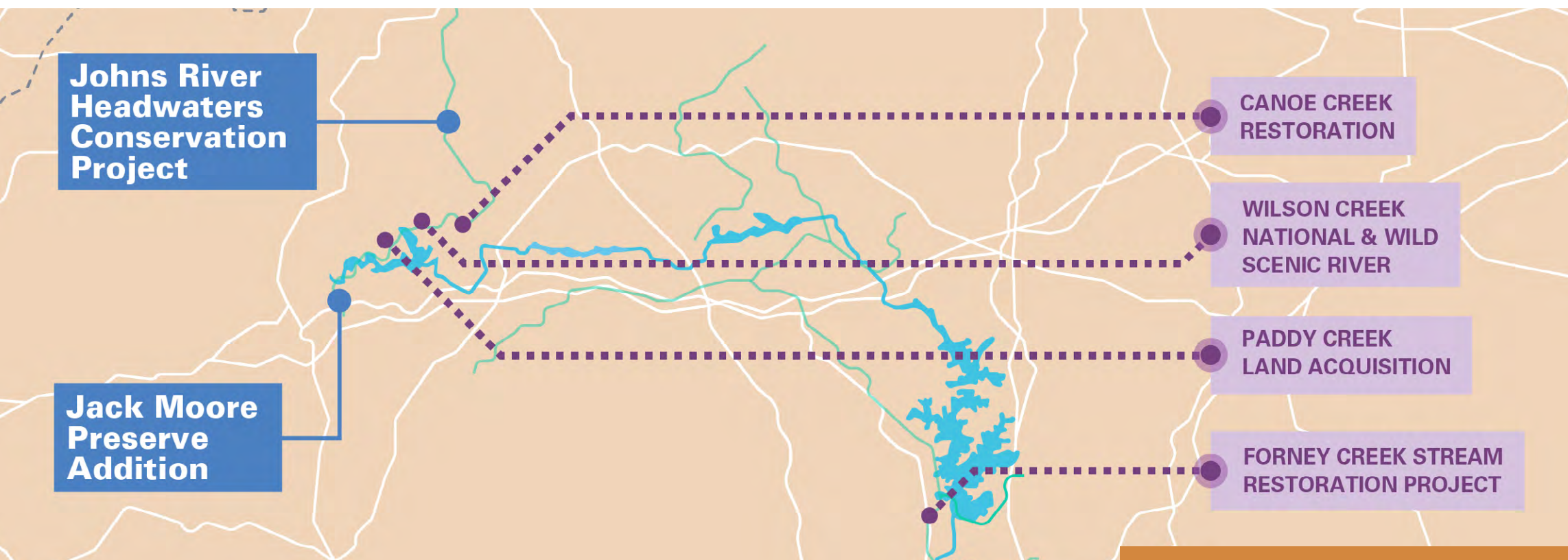
CWWMG provided a \$20,000 grant to the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina to support the acquisition and restoration of a portion of Canoe Creek in Burke County. This effort is part of a project to establish the Oak Hill Community Park and Forest for passive outdoor recreation, nature-based education, community agriculture, archeological exploration, ecological study, and forest restoration and stewardship.

#### Wilson Creek National and Wild Scenic River

CWWMG awarded \$40,000 grant to Foothills Conservancy to help purchase 93.23 acres in fee simple ownership comprising 1.5 miles along Wilson Creek, a National Wild & Scenic River in Caldwell County.

Learn about lands prioritized for source water protection with the Source Water Protection Tool:

<https://catawbalands.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html>



# Community

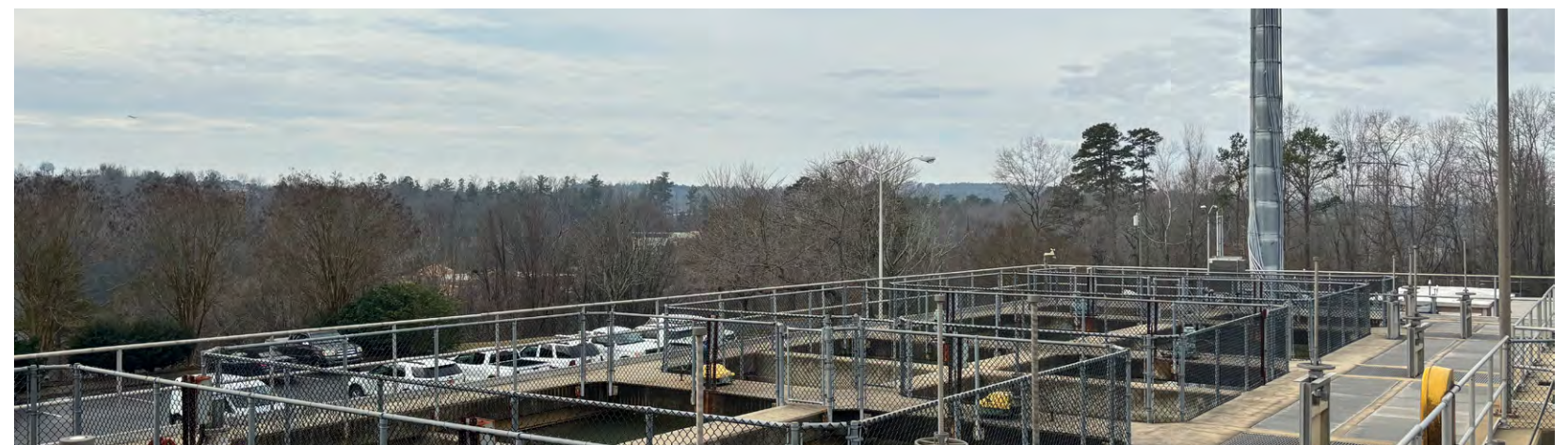
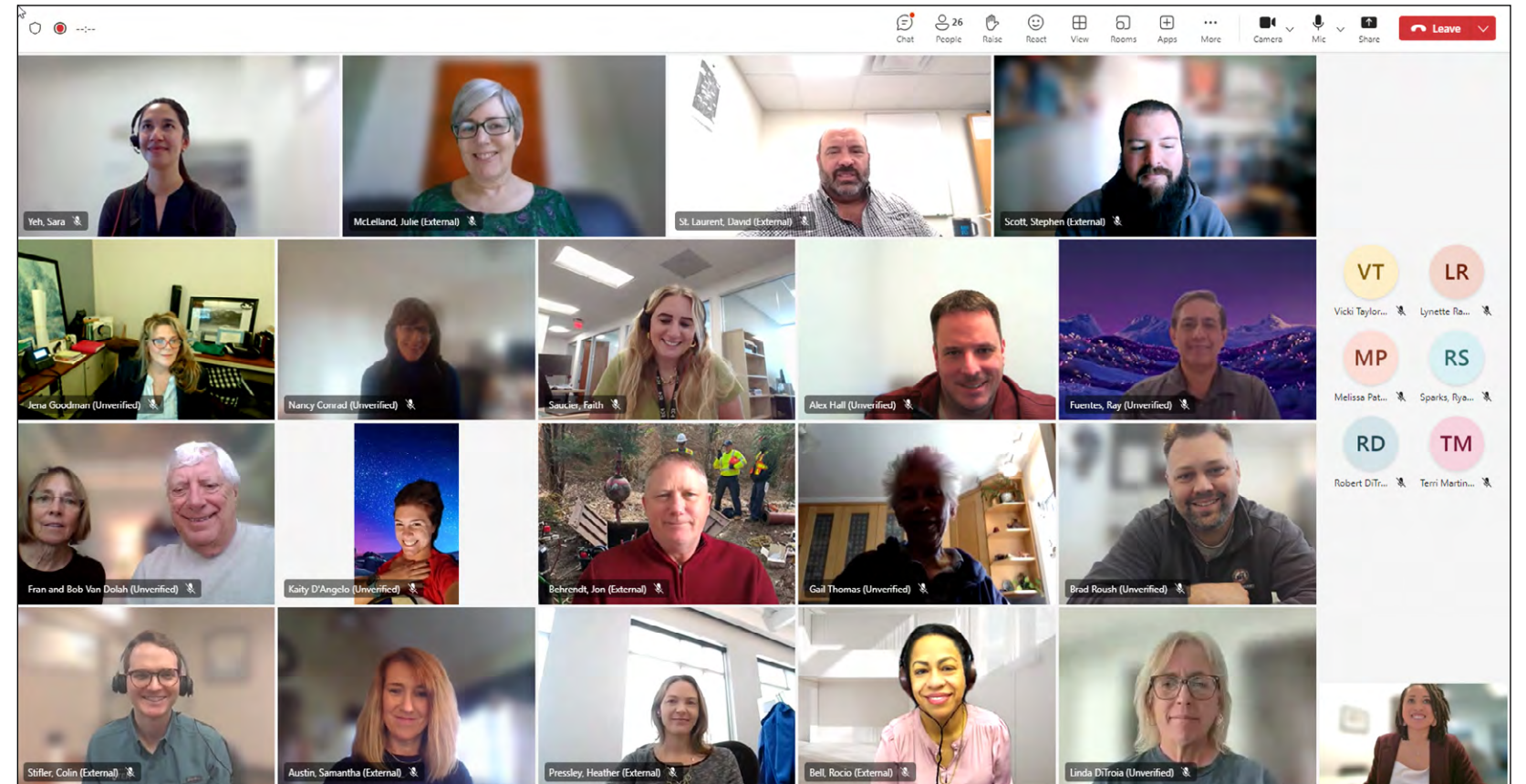
## 2024 Citizens' Water Academy: Empowering Informed Water Management

CWWMG presented the 2024 Citizens' Water Academy from January to March, offering nine sessions in various formats to educate and empower participants in water resource management. The academy aims to cultivate environmental stewards who understand the importance of sustainable water planning and advocate for protecting our shared water supply. Participants gained reliable information and practical insights through presentations from experts and water advocates.

Topics covered included:

- The history and significance of the Catawba-Wateree River
- Historical impacts of the Catawba River on regional development
- Duke Energy's role in the Basin and the FERC hydro licensing process
- Challenges and management of stormwater runoff
- Operations of water utilities and sewer systems
- Efforts of local advocates in river protection
- Land use impacts on water quality
- Recreational and conservation opportunities along the river
- Comprehensive plans for sustainable water resource management

The 2024 Citizens' Water Academy prepared participants to be informed stewards of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin, fostering a community dedicated to ensuring a sustainable water future for the region.





## 2024 Academy Graduates

Academy graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about water resource management. They are also connected to a network of professionals in the field.

Congratulations to our graduates!

**Samantha Austin**  
Charlotte Water

**Terri Martin**  
Charlotte Water

**Lynette Ramsey**  
Carolina Land and Lakes

**Jon Behrendt**  
City of Charlotte

**Megan Hinkle**  
Union County Water

**Stephen Scott**  
Charlotte Water

**Hayden Boyd**  
Resident

**Margot Leydic-Boyd**  
Resident

**David St. Laurent**  
Charlotte Water

**Nancy Conrad**  
Resident

**Robin McInnis**  
Resident

**Laurie Sickles**  
Charlotte Water

**Kaity D'Angelo**  
Catawba Riverkeeper

**Julie McLelland**  
Charlotte Water

**Colin Stifler**  
Charlotte Water

**Rob DiTroia**  
Resident

**Greg Nance**  
Catawba Riverkeeper

**Gail Thomas**  
Resident

**Linda DiTroia**  
Resident

**Ethan Pardue**  
Duke Energy

**Bob Van Dolah**  
Lake Norman Marine Commission

**Jena Goodman**  
Gaston County Government

**Melissa Patton**  
Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D

**Frances Van Dolah**  
Resident

**Alex Hall**  
Brown & Caldwell

**Heather Pressley**  
Charlotte Water

## Water for All Summit 2024

The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CW/WMG) successfully held the 2024 Annual Water for All Summit on March 28, 2024, at the Philip T. Glennon Community and Conference Center in Tega Cay, South Carolina. With the theme "Water First," the summit emphasized the importance of prioritizing water in every policy decision, partnership opportunity, and program.

The event covered a range of critical subjects, including policy perspectives on water quality, aging water infrastructure, AWWA's Water 2050 initiatives, community engagement, and integrated development strategies. Feedback from state agencies, peer

regions, and the AWWA played a significant role in shaping these discussions, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities surrounding water resources in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.

The summit brought together stakeholders, experts, and policymakers from diverse backgrounds, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences. Participants engaged in panel discussions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, fostering collaboration and partnerships to drive effective water management practices.

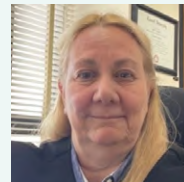
### Dialogue with Decision Makers: Policy Perspectives on Water Quality



**Katie Butler**  
Water Division Director,  
U.S. EPA Region 4



**Rob Devlin**  
Assistant Bureau Chief,  
Bureau of Water, SCDHEC



**Julie Grzyb**  
Deputy Director,  
Division of Water Resources, NCDEQ

Panelists Katie Butler, Rob Devlin, and Julie Grzyb discussed the importance of policies and rules that impact the community's water. This session presented answers to questions relating to the rationale behind water quality regulations, the formation of those regulations, and the impact they have on everyday life. The panel shed light on the decision-making process, challenges in water quality management, and strategies for proactive engagement and effective collaboration.



### Challenges and Solutions for Aging Water Infrastructure

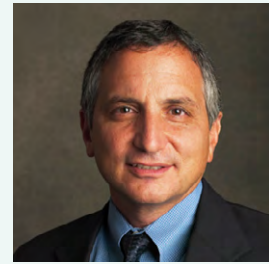


**Clint Shealy**  
Assistant City Manager,  
City of Columbia, South Carolina

Clint Shealy presented on aging water infrastructure and its impact on water quality. This presentation focused on the challenges and innovative solutions being employed to ensure that infrastructure keeps up with the "Water First" ethos to deliver clean water through resilient systems.



## Water 2050



**Joseph Jacangelo**  
Immediate Past President,  
American Water Works Association (AWWA)  

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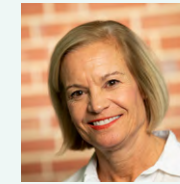
Director of Research,  
Stantec

Keynote speaker Joseph Jacangelo provided an overview of AWWA's Water 2050 initiative and alignment with the summit's "Water First" theme. This keynote focused on the initiative's timeline from 2022 through 2023 which highlighted key aspects such as engaging thought leaders, fostering intergenerational responsibility, and capturing collective knowledge. The session examined the connection between global vision and local action in the water sector by emphasizing collaboration and sustainability.





## Integrated Development Strategies: Balancing Water, Environment, and Economic Growth



**Kathy Cornett**  
Community Planning Program Manager,  
Charlotte Planning, Design & Development



**David Swenson**  
Director,  
York County Economic Development



**Jimmy Summers**  
Vice President of Environment, Health,  
Safety, and Sustainability, Elevate Textiles

This panel featured Kathy Cornett, David Swenson, and Jimmy Summers. They provided a comprehensive discussion on the necessity to connect water management, environmental sustainability, and economic development within holistic planning and growth to foster sustainable and economically viable communities. Panel experts centered on the strategic integration of sustainable water management with urban and economic development, strategies for proactive engagement and cross-sector collaboration, and decision-making in economic development.

## Crystal Clear Conversations: Engaging with the Community



**Kelley Dearing Smith**  
VP Communications and Marketing,  
Louisville Water

Kelley Dearing Smith from Louisville Water presented a segment on the importance of clear and transparent communication in the implementation of water quality initiatives. This presentation shed light on the link between communication and community. Smith explored how clarity and transparency can engage communities, foster understanding, create trust, and build support for water quality initiatives.

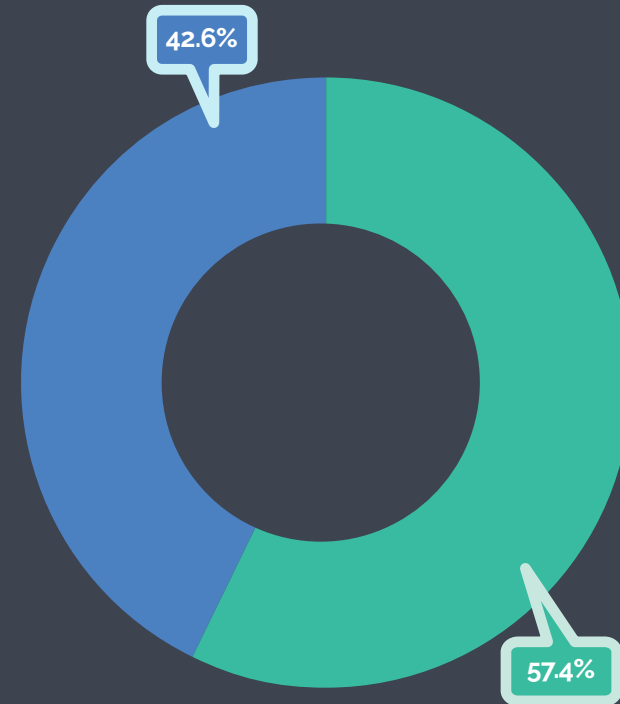


# Our Financials

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

## Income

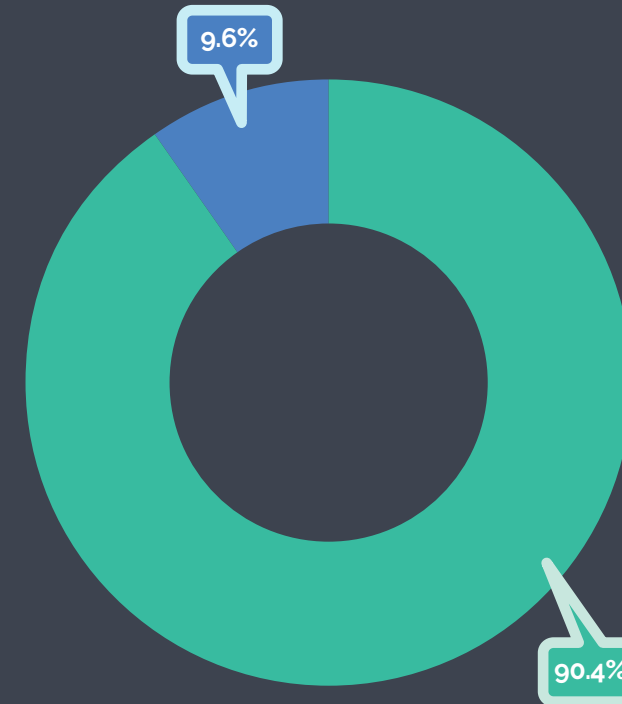
**Member Dues: \$700,000**  
**Other: \$520,325**



**TOTAL: \$1,220,325**

## Costs & Expenses

**Projects: \$804,452**  
**Other: \$94,824**



**TOTAL: \$988,452**

### Project Expenses

- Interest  
**\$8,937**
- Annual Summit Registrations 2023  
**\$7,045**
- Supplemental Funds from Members  
**\$4,343**
- SCDHEC Grant for IWEP  
**\$500,000**

### Other Income

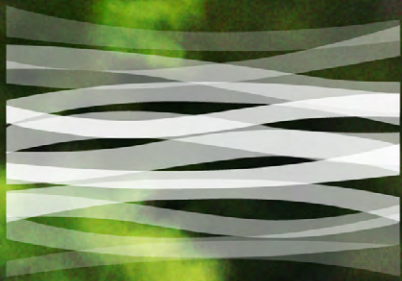
- Strategic Communications Project  
**\$204,970**
- Integrated Water Resources Plan Year 3  
**\$431,203**
- USGS Groundwater Wells O&M  
**\$106,000**
- Theorem Geo Associates Lidar Study  
**\$60,000**

- Solitude Lake Management – Aquatic Weed Control  
**\$1,455**
- Catawba Riverkeeper Sponsorships  
**\$20,000**
- Foothills Conservancy Conservation Acquisition Grant  
**\$40,000**
- Catawba Lands Conservancy Acquisition Grant  
**\$30,000**

### Other Expenses

- CW/WMG Administration  
**\$88,220**
- Insurance  
**\$1,842**
- Legal and Other Professional Services  
**\$4,762**





CATAWBA  
WATEREE  
WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP