

Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project

Proactive, Regional, Collaborative

Project Overview

In 1988, several local governments, with assistance from Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), formed the Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project (TAWSMP) to systematically evaluate the quantity and quality of water supply sources in the region. With cooperative and financial assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Project has tracked conditions and trends in many of the area's water supply lakes, rivers, and streams for the last thirty years.



The TAWSMP operates in Phases: the Project is **currently in Phase VIII**, from July 2017 to June 2022. A Steering Committee comprised of one representative from each Partner reviews and adjusts Project goals and objectives before each new Phase to adapt to community needs.

Adapting to Public Needs



Water suppliers need robust datasets to serve the public; the TAWSMP adapts each Phase to identify and investigate the occurrence and distribution of **high-risk water quality contaminants**, while continuing to monitor a broad range of conventional constituents.

Recent public health concerns have developed in North Carolina related to potentially carcinogenic contaminants in drinking water. Proactively, Phase VIII includes new analyses to investigate these **contaminants of emerging concern**.



In order to provide comprehensive water supply coverage, the TAWSMP monitors **six major drinking water reservoirs** including Jordan, University, Michie, Little River, Cane Creek, and Eno, and **nine associated major tributaries** including the Haw and New Hope Rivers.

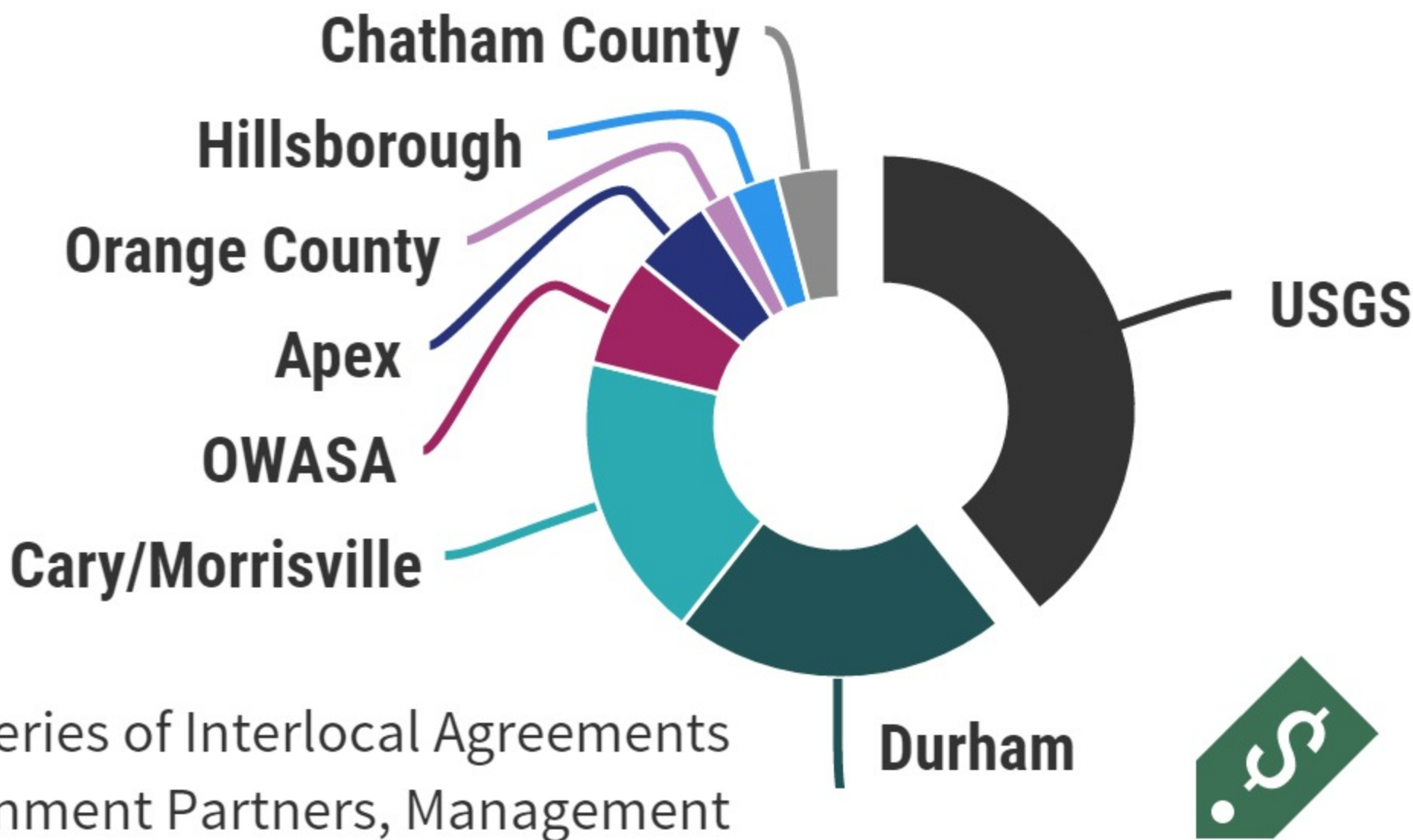
Regional Collaboration

From the viewpoint of water, everyone is downstream of someone else! A regional mentality and cooperative commitments are critical for ensuring a safe and sustainable water supply for the Triangle Region. To date, the TAWSMP Partners have contributed millions of dollars to support decades of regional collaboration, ensure that the quality of our water supply sources is thoroughly understood, and compile a robust dataset for analysis.



Monitoring gauges provide critical stream flow data which can be used by state and local agencies and the public. These data compliment other water quality monitoring efforts to accomplish regional resource analysis.

The Project is enabled through a series of Interlocal Agreements among all of the local government Partners, Management Agreements between the Partners and TJCOG, and Joint Funding Agreements between the Partners and USGS. Partner dues are based on average annual water use (mgd), and supplemented by generous cost sharing by the USGS (~40%).



Phase VIII
Total Budget
\$3,150,00

Current Objectives

- ✔ **Continue monitoring** major ions, nutrients, suspended sediment, and chlorophyll-*a* to document water-quality conditions in the study area.
- ✔ **Investigate constituents of concern** to local water suppliers, including bromide, chromium, and 1,4-dioxane.
- ✔ **Operate a network of 10 continuous streamflow stations** and make the data publically available in real time at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov>
- ✔ **Utilize laboratory and field data** to evaluate water-quality trends in water supplies and tributaries.

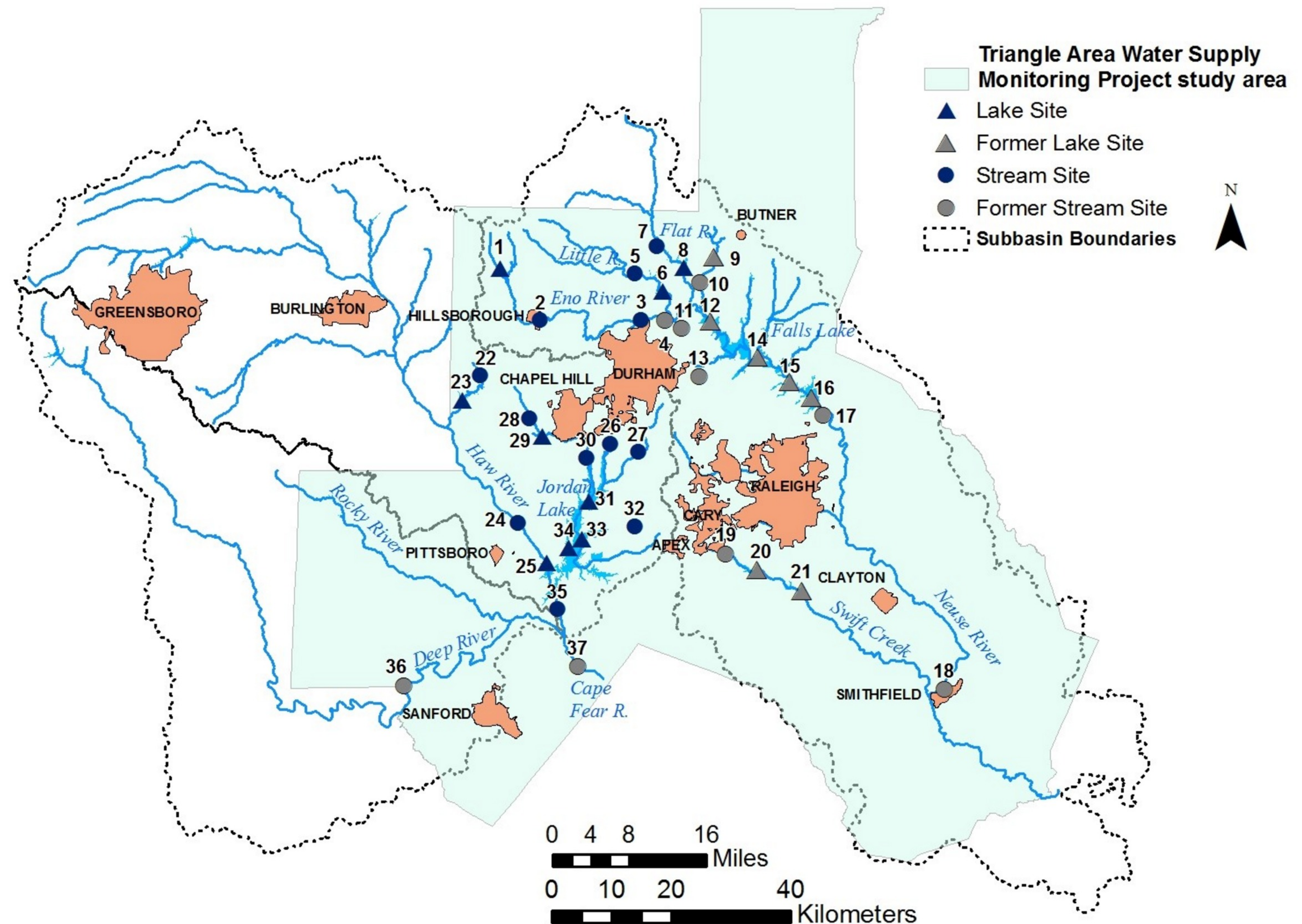
Trends Reporting



The efforts of the TAWSMP over the past 30 years have resulted in one of the most comprehensive water quality monitoring datasets in the country. USGS examined long-term temporal trends in water quality for 13 stream and 8 reservoir sites in both the Cape Fear and Falls Lake basins using data collected 1989-2013. The results will be published in a USGS Scientific Investigations Report in early 2018.

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Project Partners



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Join the team! We are always open to additional entities joining the Partnership.

Connect with Us

The Partners intend to continue providing proactive, collaborative services that protect public drinking water health into the future. To learn more about TAWSMP, utilize the resources below.

Website

www.tawsmp.org

Program Administrator

Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) provides management, administrative, and technical support to TAWSMP
www.tjco.org

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