

# Acquisition of Open Space in Marks Creek from the Watson Family

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# Open Space Preservation Program

Purpose – to protect and conserve County land and water for current residents and future generations.

Land that would...

- Preserve natural resources, wildlife habitat, and historical and cultural properties;
- Protect forest and farm land, scenic landscapes, riparian corridors and water quality;
- Provide venues for outdoor recreation.





# Open Space Preservation Program

Protected outright or through partnership:

- 6,500 acres;
- Partnerships have included ten local municipalities, non-profits, the State of North Carolina, and the federal government

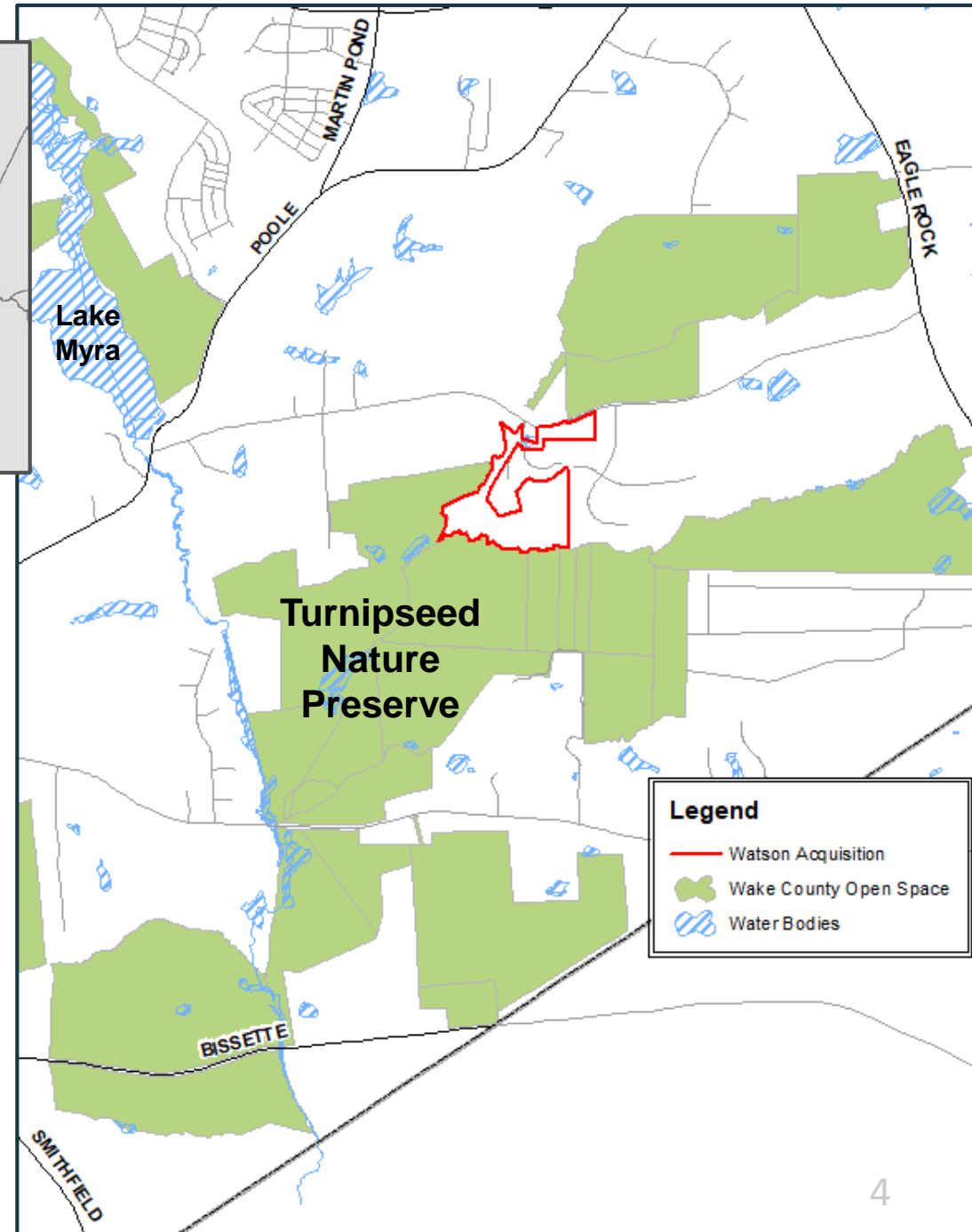
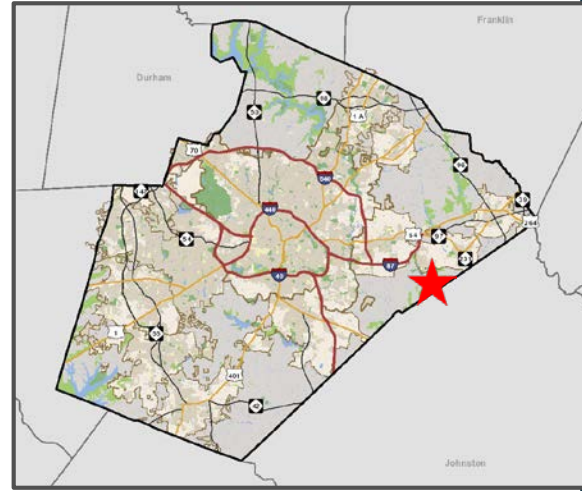
Assisted with design and construction:

- 21.8 miles of greenway trail;
- Partnerships have included seven local municipalities



# Watson Open Space Acquisition

- Approximately 37 acres;
- Marks Creek area;
- Adjacent to and upstream from the Turnipseed Nature Preserve;
- Estimated total acquisition cost is \$760,000









# Specific Action Requested

## **That the Board of Commissioners:**

- Appropriates \$760,000 of Open Space funding; and
- Authorizes the County Manager to execute an agreement to purchase specific acreage from the following: Watson Family Farms of Marks Creek, LLC; Ada Watson Sorrell; Watson and Watson of NC, Limited Partnership; and Olen L. Watson, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.