

Charles Friddle
Director
Geographic Information Services

Charles joined the Wake County Planning Department in 1980 as a Planner. His primary responsibilities evolved to supervising the Planning Department's Mapping/Statistical Section, managing a county-wide aerial photography, topographic, and property mapping project, and investigating and planning for the implementation of a county-wide Geographic Information System (GIS). Until that time, Wake County's mapping was done by hand with pen and ink on film mylar.

In 1987, Charles was hired as the County's first (and until now only) Director of the newly created GIS agency. GIS works closely with every County agency, municipal, regional, State, and Federal agency, the private sector, and the public. Over the years, Charles has managed or been involved with the selection, implementation and expansion of the County's GIS systems, numerous aerial mapping and hydrography projects, the County's first GIS-based Computer Aided Dispatch system, and 3 county line location projects. In addition, he has managed Wake County's award winning and nationally recognized GIS system that includes over 500 layers of information that range from parcels to voting districts to wells, hundreds of County users, and 35 GIS applications.

Under Charles' leadership, GIS has been involved in responding to the increased demand for sophisticated GIS data and analyses. Analyses have ranged from analyzing optimum locations for new facilities and open space to the effectiveness of County facilities and programs in comparison to their customers.

Over the years, Charles has spent hours in the County's Emergency Operations Center providing geographic insight during hurricanes, tornados, snow/ice events, chemical spills, and Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant drills.

Charles is recognized for his attention to detail, his fair and analytical assessment of situations, and a desire to provide excellent customer service. He and his staff are known for being able to translate customers' needs into data, maps, and/or applications that are being used to solve issues.

Charles will be missed for his loyalty and leadership to his colleagues and the customers he serves.

Please join me in congratulating Charles on his retirement.