

Island Creek Basin Ecosystems: An Imperiled Biodiversity Hotspot

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A White Paper by Andy Wood and Roger Shew

Northern New Hanover County is currently a focal area for growth. The Island Creek Basin Ecosystem White Paper describes the characteristics and ecosystem services provided by the biodiverse ecosystems in the Sidbury Road Area and the Island Creek Watershed.

Though development is inevitable in some of these locations, it is important to protect some of the remaining natural areas in NHC. It is also important to determine the ability of these areas to meet both stormwater and floodwater concerns, as well as to meet infrastructure needs for our citizens and for the County. The Island Creek Area is predominantly composed of hydric soils, which are *soils that form under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part and that supports flora adapted to these wet conditions; they are poorly to very poorly draining soils*. These wet soils, and the significant plant and animal communities in Island Creek, should be fully assessed for their value and limitations for construction prior to any development.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this paper are those of Roger Shew and do not represent the views of UNC-Wilmington



The New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors endorses the Island Creek Ecosystem White Paper. The paper supports the mission of the District in providing educational information and assistance to public and private land owners with stormwater management considerations as well as information for consideration of the preservation and conservation of natural areas in New Hanover County.



Summary of Soils in the Area of Interest	
Total Acreage in Area of Interest: 11,779 acres	(Poorly to Extremely Poorly Drained)
Total Acreage in Area of Interest by County:	Johnston: VP
New Hanover = 8,860 acres; Pender = 2,919 acres	Leon: P
	Lynn Haven: P
NHC Hydric Soils = 7,146 (80.6%)	Muckalee: VP
Poorly = 1,413 (20% of hydric soils)	Murville: VP
Very Poorly = 5,733 (80% of hydric soils)	Pamlico: VP
	Pantego: VP
Pender Hydric Soils = 1,381 (47%)	Torhunto: VP
Poorly = 615 (44.5% of hydric soils)	Woodington: P
Very Poorly = 766 (55.5% of hydric soils)	

