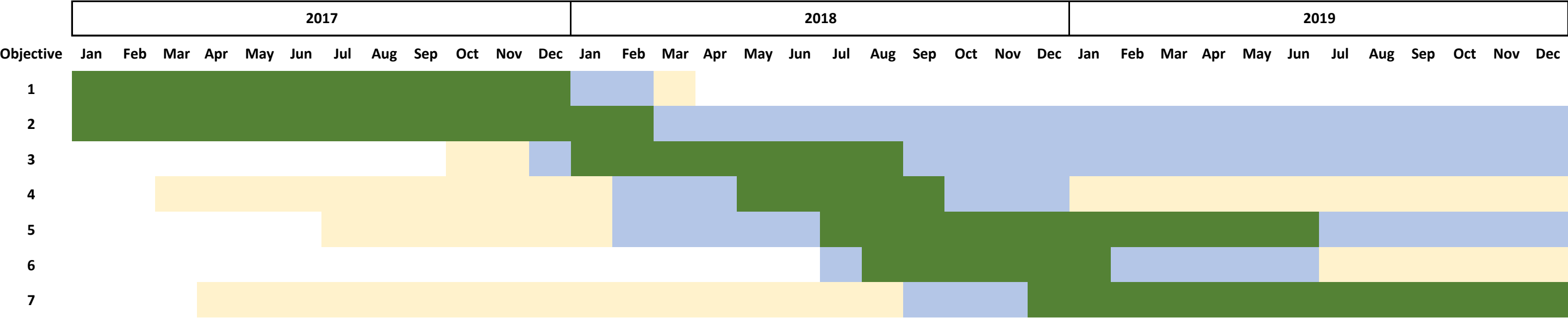


Strategic Plan for Implementing the Natural Resources Program of Albemarle County

The Seven Objective of the Natural Resources Program

- 1) Conduct a thorough public review of the stream buffer requirements of the Water Protection Ordinance.
- 2) Work as staff liaison with the Natural Heritage Committee on biodiversity issues. Help complete a Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 3) Promote, support, educate and assist landowners in conservation efforts and good stewardship of their land.
- 4) Strengthen conservation easement programs.
- 5) Conserve resources in Development Areas.
- 6) Strengthen landscaping regulations.
- 7) Develop and implement on-the-ground conservation/restoration projects.

Program Timeline



Color Codes: High level of work effort required Moderate level of work effort required Lower level of work effort required

Significant Milestones

1

- Mar 2017 Develop and begin implementing a public engagement plan.
- Apr 2017 Send a survey about stream buffers through A-mail.
- May 2017 Complete the first three public meetings, each with a different stakeholder group.
- July 2017 Complete a public meeting (or more than one meeting if needed) among all stakeholder groups and general public.
- Oct 2017 Conduct a public meeting to present staff recommendations about stream buffers.
- Dec 2017 Conduct a work session with BOS to present recommendations about stream buffers.

NOTE: Actions needed after December 2017 will be dependent upon the outcome of BOS work session. Significant actions could be needed. Several county staff are necessary to implement this objective.

2	Feb 2017	Complete an outline of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and begin drafting chapters.
	July 2017	Complete the review and rankings of Important Sites.
	July 2017	Complete GIS analysis for the BAP.
	Sept 2017	Complete a draft BAP and circulate among outside experts and county staff for thorough review.
	Dec 2017	Complete the BAP.
	Feb 2018	Present BAP and recommendations to BOS. NOTE: Actions needed after Feb. 2018 will be somewhat dependent upon BOS response to the BAP recommendations. Significant public outreach and education will take place after completion of the BAP. Supporting the NHC on biodiversity related issues will remain a core aspect of the Natural Resources Program. Completing the BAP relies primarily on outside people and resources, but county staff will be needed to review the plan.
3	Jan 2018	Begin focused outreach to community organizations to identify existing strengths, gaps, and needs for educating and supporting Albemarle County landowners.
	Mar 2018	Compile relevant information from organizations.
	Apr 2018	Work with NHC to develop educational material about biodiversity.
	June 2018	Develop outreach strategies and begin implementing education and assistance efforts.
	July 2018	Begin developing incentives for landowners to create and maintain areas of native habitat. NOTE: This objective will be an ongoing, core aspect of the Natural Resources Program. A small amount of additional county staff time will be needed, but most needed collaboration will be with county partners, resource agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
4	Mar 2017	Introduce ideas to ACE Committee about how to strengthen natural resource protection with their program.
	Feb 2018	Develop strategies for enhancing the easement programs.
	Mar 2018	Begin incorporating results of the WPO review and BAP recommendations into strategies for strengthening the ACE and PRFA programs.
	May 2018	Begin working with ACE and PRFA committees to strengthen the programs.
	Sept 2018	Finalize strategies for strengthening the ACE and PRFA programs. NOTE: The timing of introducing and implementing changes to ACE will be largely dependent upon the ACE Committee and BOS. The same is true of PRFA. Depending on the nature of strategies and recommendations developed, additional staff resources may be needed.
5	July 2018	Identify and assess urban forestry and related projects in the region.
	Oct 2018	Develop and implement outreach strategies to improve resource conservation in Development Areas. Note: Working with staff from the Community Development Department on this objective will be an ongoing aspect of the Natural Resources Program. We will identify and implement strategies to conserve resources in the Development Areas while striving to make them more attractive and desirable places to live and work.
6	Aug 2018	Identify all the approved list of plants used by all Albemarle County departments.
	Sept 2018	Begin reviewing the plant lists with NHC members and other experts.
	Feb 2019	Complete the revisions and formal approval of the plant lists.
	Apr 2019	Begin working to make native plants more available locally and less costly.

		NOTE: Working to make native plants more accessible will be an ongoing aspect of the Natural Resources Program. Some additional county staff time will be needed to revise plant lists and interact with nurseries about the availability of native plants. Most of the expertise required to revise the lists will come from outside experts, who will also contribute in working with nurseries.
7	Apr 2017 Feb 2018 Sep 2018 Jan 2019	Remain engaged with the "Heal This Stream" project in the Water Resources Program of the Facilities and Environmental Services Dept. Review the analyses and conclusions of the BAP for habitat restoration possibilities and potential project areas. Identify and cultivate potential project partners, including individual landowners and foundations and other funding sources. Complete project planning and begin implementing the project.
		NOTE: Identifying potential projects, project partners, and funding sources will be an ongoing aspect of the Natural Resources Program. Some additional county staff will be needed to develop and implement projecjts, including securing project funding. Many of the resources for projects will come from collaboration and partnerships with landowners, county partners, and other organizations.