# **Turnipseed Nature Preserve**

# Historic Resource Assessment



Turnipseed Nature Preserve
Hunt Valley Trail and Pleasants Road
Wendell, Wake County, North Carolina

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# **Turnipseed Nature Preserve**

## Historic Resource Assessment

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Owner and Architectural Historian

Text, layout, and photos by Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski Maps courtesy of Google Maps and Raleigh & Wake County iMaps

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# **Project Description**

The Turnipseed Nature Preserve is a 249.81-acre site located within Wake County in the Marks Creek watershed, a sub-basin of the larger Neuse River watershed. The preserve is managed by Wake County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS). The first phase of Turnipseed Nature Preserve is currently under construction and will be open to the public in the summer of 2017, providing access from Hunt Valley Trail.

Wake County has received a grant from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund to build Phase II of the preserve, which will expand the preserve to include one additional mile of accessible nature and hiking trails, a pedestrian bridge, boardwalks, a small pond with an accessible fishing area, open play areas, two picnic areas, interpretive signage and a gravel parking lot for 35 cars, including ADA parking, on Pleasants Road. The Phase II project area includes approximately 95 acres of the total preserve.

Wake County PROS has obtained all necessary permits and approvals, including the following: General Permit, NC DOT Driveway Permit, Nationwide Permits, Flood Study Plan Approval, Stormwater Construction Plan, Water Quality Certification, and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan Approval. Wake County holds fee simple ownership of the property and has no plans to sell or lease any part of the preserve or any resources within its boundaries.

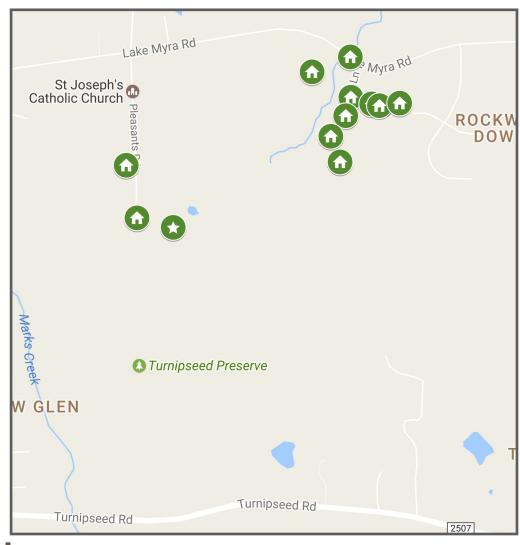
Part of the property is encumbered with an easement from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Allowable uses on the property include: passive recreational use, walking and hiking trails, pedestrian foot bridge, observation platforms, canoe/kayak access, parking, environmental learning kiosk, covered picnic shelter and tables, and convenience facilities (restrooms). This easement was executed April 17, 2007, and may be found in Deed Book 12504, pages 2316-2330, at the Wake County Register of Deeds.

# **Historic Properties**

## Introduction

Thirteen historic resources were surveyed and assessed for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. These include one within the Turnipseed Preserve project boundaries and twelve adjacent to the preserve. The building dates range from 1904 to 1961. None of these properties have been previously identified or surveyed by the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office.

Most of the land adjacent to the Turnipseed Preserve project area is either privately owned farmland or additional county-owned park land. The northeast boundary of the preserve is adjacent to a number of early— and mid-twentieth-century resources, assessed in this report, as well as a number of homes constructed within the last fifty years, which are not considered historic for the purposes of this assessment.



## Farm Shed

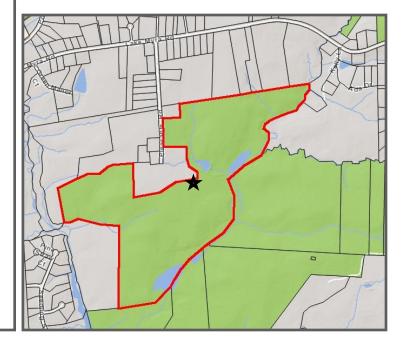
## Turnipseed Preserve, Wendell

There is one agriculture-related shed located within the project boundaries. It was built around the 1930s and was probably associated with the adjacent Medlin-Pleasants Farm at one time (see page 7). It has been separated from the rest of the farm complex and no longer serves an agricultural function.

The shed is a gable-front, frame building facing west toward a farm road. A batten door provides access to the interior, which is a single, unfinished room. The shed is covered in rolled asphalt and has exposed rafter tails and a metal roof.

The farm shed is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, and it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information. The building will be demolished during the project.





## Medlin-Pleasants House

## 1556 Pleasants Road, Wendell

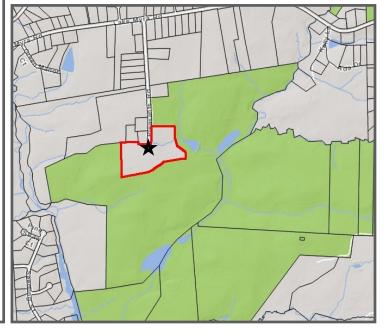
The Medlin-Pleasants House was built in 1910 by John Robert Medlin and Annie Horton Medlin, who farmed tobacco and probably subsistence crops. The house passed to their daughter, Wilma Medlin Pleasants, and her husband, Milton Pleasants, in the 1930s. They continued to operate the farm, and in 1983, Wilma Pleasants, now widowed, passed the farm to her son, George Pleasants, who kept horses. The current owner, Kristina Fowler, acquired the property from George Pleasants' estate in 2014. It is no longer used for any farming or livestock purposes.<sup>1</sup>

The Medlin-Pleasants House has had many alterations since its construction in 1910. The original portion is a one-story, side-gable house with a replacement gabled porch supported by Doric-style columns, vinyl siding, and replacement six-over-six windows, all probably added in the 1980s. The house appears to have undergone a previous renovation in the 1930s that updated the building with Craftsman-style details, including the current entryway with a three-light-over-four-panel front door, three-light-over-one-panel sidelights, and five-light transom. The original porch appears to have been replaced at that time as well, although the 1930s porch has also since been replaced with the current form. The house has several additions on the rear and is surrounded by early twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings, including a tobacco barn and a packhouse, as well as horse barns.

The Medlin-Pleasants House is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information, and it has been heavily altered and retains low material integrity.

<sup>1</sup> Pleasants Estate, Book 14727, Page 897, April 13, 2012; Wilma Medlin Pleasant to George Pleasant, Book 3151, Pages 985-987, July 29, 1983; WC & Mattie M Horton to JR Medlin, Book 249, Page 435, October 11, 1910; WC & Mattie Horton to JR Medlin, Book 214, Page 649, November 30, 1907; WC & Mattie Horton to JR Medlin, Book 214, Page 638, November 23, 1907; all deeds at Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.





## William & Mattie Horton House

### 1516 Pleasants Road, Wendell

This house was built in 1904 by William C. Horton and his wife, Mattie Mae Honeycutt. It was originally part of a 200-acre parcel owned by J.S. and Mary Medlin, who sold the land to their son John Robert Medlin and his wife, Annie Horton, and William C. Horton, Annie's brother. Annie and John Medlin retained the land to the south (see Medlin-Pleasants Farm at 1556 Pleasants Road) while Mattie and William built this house at 1516 Pleasants Road. The house passed to the Hortons' heirs in 1944, and additions were made to the building sometime in the mid— to late 1900s. In 1990, the Horton heirs transferred the property to Constance and Michael Horton, who sold it to the current owners, Susan and Paul Gerstenfeld.<sup>2</sup>

The William & Mattie Horton House is typical of turn-of-the-century vernacular architecture with a one-story, side-gable form and a hip-roofed porch supported by turned porch posts with decorative brackets. The stone end chimneys have been covered with cement and the house has replacement doors and windows. The porch has also been altered to add dentil detailing and a turned balustrade. A large addition extends to the rear of the house.

The house is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information, and material integrity has been compromised by later changes to the building.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> JS Medlin to William C. Horton, Book 177, Page 21, March 21, 1903 ;JC Horton et al to Constance and Michael Horton, Book 4743, Page 584-585, July 20, 1990; Constance and Michael Horton to Susan and Paul Gerstenfeld, Book 6690, Page 398-400, September 28, 1995; all deeds at Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

## Marshburn House

## 7000 Lake Myra Road, Wendell

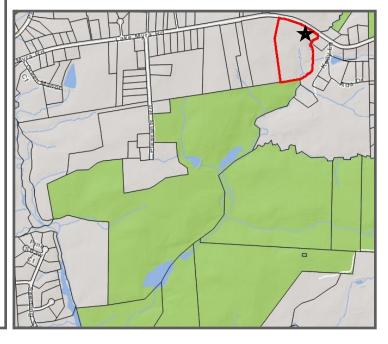
The Marshburn House was built in the 1930s possibly as a second generation home on the Marshburn family farm. George G. and Ella Marshburn purchased a farm in Wendell in the late 1920s, and by the 1940 census, their son George Elmo Marshburn and his wife Fleeder were residing next door as renters. It is common in rural Wake County for several generations to reside on the same farm property, with each generation building a new contemporary home. Although the fate of George and Ella Marshburn's older house is unknown, there is also a 1981 house adjacent to the 1930s house. Following George and Ella Marshburn's deaths, the farm passed to their seven surviving children, who transferred ownership to George and Fleeder Marshburn in 1967. They in turn left the property to their children in 2005, who sold it to Lois and Larry Marshburn, the current owners. <sup>3</sup>

This one-story front-gabled house has a hip-roofed front porch supported by square posts, exposed rafter tails, a 5V metal roof, and a rectangular vent in the front gable. The house retains Craftsman-style three-over-one windows, a four-light-over-two-panel door, and plain weatherboard. A small shed addition extends from the rear of the house. The primary resource on this property is the adjacent 1981 house, which is a long, one-story, ranch-style house with a central porch supported by square posts. Several barns are also located immediately adjacent to the house.

The house is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, and it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information.

<sup>3</sup> D.C. Marshburn et al to George Elmo Marshburn and Fleeder V. Marshburn, Book 2173, Pages 438-440, July 9, 1973; Fleeder V. Marshburn to Marvin M. Pleasant et al, Book 11264, Pages 1434-1438, March 15, 2005; Marvin M. Pleasant et al to Larry V. Marshburn and Lois W. Marshburn, Book 11351, Pages 1479-1483, May 9, 2005; all deeds at Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; George G. Marshburn, *United States Federal Census*, 1920, 1930, 1940; George E. Marshburn, *United States Federal Census*, 1930, 1940; census data at www.ancestry.com.





## William & Delia Hollifield House

## 7020 Lake Myra Road, Wendell

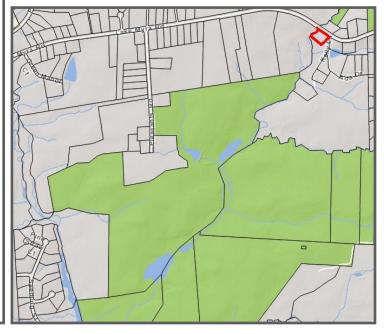
This house was built in 1961 by William Richard Hollifield. Hollifield purchased the land from his brother, Isaac Fletcher Hollifield, in 1945. This sale combined two parcels within the brothers' ancestral farm, owned by their parents, Isaac Pearson Hollifield and Harriet "Hettie" Lowery. Prior to buying his own farmland, William Hollifield rented a farm nearby. Hollifield was married to Delia Mae Strickland, and they had ten children who inherited the property in the 1970s.<sup>4</sup>

William Hollifield also owned significant acreage to the east and south of this house, which he later subdivided and sold. The resulting neighborhood of mid-century homes is accessed by Kelly Lane and Ada Drive (see Hollifield Farm Houses, pages 11-12, and Hollifield-Watson Farm, page 13). The original property was known as the W.R. Hollifield Farm, but the property at 7020 Lake Myra Road is all that remains in Hollifield ownership.

The house is located at the corner of Lake Myra Road and Kelly Lane near the northern boundary of the Turnipseed Preserve. The one-story, side-gable house is in fair condition and is partially obscured by large shade trees on the front lawn. The east end of the house has a small recessed porch with a decorative gable supported by turned posts, and the west end of the house has a matching front-facing gable on a small addition. A gable-end caport facing Kelly Lane to the west has been enclosed and vinyl siding has been added. A wellhouse and small shed are located adjacent to the house.

The house is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information, and material integrity has been compromised by later changes to the building.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> I.F. Hollifield to W.R. Hollifield, Book 912, Page 590, March 16, 1945, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; Isaac Hollifield, *United States Federal Census*, 1910, 1930, 1940; William Hollifield, *United States Federal Census*, 1930, 1940; census data at www.ancestry.com.

## Hollifield Farm Houses

### Kelly Lane and Ada Drive, Wendell

Between 1924 and 1945, W.R. Hollifield acquired approximately 150 acres of farmland along Marks Creek on the south side of Lake Myra Road, north of the Turnipseed Nature Preserve. Over the next fifteen years, he subdivided and sold portions of his land, retaining a small homestead at 7020 Lake Myra Road (see William & Delia Hollifield House, page 10). Thirty-six acres was parceled off as a new farm (see Hollifield-Watson Farm, page 13), while another eight houses were built along Kelly Lane and Ada Drive. Seven of these houses were constructed before 1967 and are assessed here, while the eighth, 7125 Ada Drive, was constructed in 1983 and is therefore outside the period for this study. The houses are typical mid-century vernacular homes in good condition with medium to high material integrity.

#### 1413 Kelly Lane

This one-story, side-gabled house was built in 1945 and retains board and batten siding, two-over-two windows, and an interior chimney. It is oriented north toward the intersection of Kelly Lane and Ada Drive, and has a large, irregularly-shaped lawn. A well and shed are located immediately adjacent to the house.

### 1425 Kelly Lane

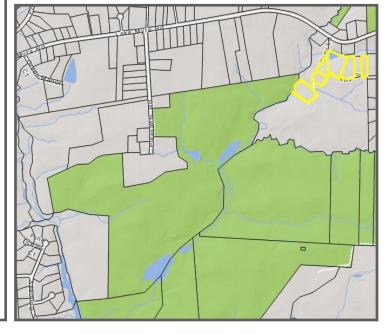
This one-story, triple-A roofed house was built in 1961. It has an asymmetrically-oriented, gabled stoop supported by metal posts, an interior chimney, six-over-six vinyl replacement windows, and vinyl siding. There is an enclosed porch on the north elevation and an exterior chimney on the south elevation. The house is oriented facing west toward Kelly Lane and is sited upon a small hill.



1413 Kelly Lane



1425 Kelly Lane



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Luther Strickland to W.R. Hollifield, Book 456, Page 254, December 22, 1924; Trustees of Wake Forest College to W.R. Hollifield, Book 872, Pages 112-114, December 20, 1941; I.F. Hollifield to W.R. Hollifield, Book 912, Page 590, March 16, 1945; all deeds at Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

#### 1432 Kelly Lane

This one-story, brick house was built in 1961. It is a side-gabled form with wide shed wings on both front and rear. The house retains a wide exterior chimney, weatherboard in the gables, and Craftsman-style windows. The front elevation faces west rather than north toward Kelly Lane, but it has a small gabled entry to the porch from that side. The rear porch has been partially enclosed.

#### 7105 Ada Drive

This one-story, front-gabled house was built in 1940. It has a recessed corner porch with decorative archways supported by turned porch posts. The house has aluminum siding and six-over-six vinyl replacement windows. It sits on a large wooded parcel, nearly two acres, and is sited at the eastern end of the parcel on a small hill.

#### 7117 Ada Drive

This parcel has two identical houses situated as mirror images. Built in 1946, they are one -story, side-gabled, brick houses with two sets of paired one-over-one vinyl windows on the front façade. The entrances face east and west, away from one another, and feature small shed-roofed stoops supported by metal posts. A small shed addition extends from the rear of both houses, and a shed is located to the rear of the lot.

#### 7129 Ada Drive

This one-story, side-gabled, brick house was built in 1946 and retains its original paired, two-over-two windows. The door is situated asymmetrically on the front of the house and is accessed by a small, uncovered brick porch. The house is sited on a small, wooded parcel at the termination of Ada Drive. A small shed is located adjacent to the house.

The Hollifield Farm Houses are not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. They are not associated with a significant historic event or person, they do not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, and they are unlikely to yield important archaeological information.



1432 Kelly Lane



7105 Ada Drive



7117 Ada Drive



7129 Ada Drive

## Hollifield-Watson Farm

1440 Kelly Lane, Wendell

The current thirty-six-acre Hollifield-Watson Farm was originally part of the much larger W.R. Hollifield Farm. It was subdivided from the rest of Hollifield's property in 1968, around the same time that several other smaller parcels were subdivided and sold from Hollifield's land holdings (see Hollifield Farm Houses, pages 11-12). This portion was sold to James and Hettie Peele, who in turn sold it to Nancy and Olen Watson in 1971. The farm still operates as Watson Family Farms of Marks Creek.<sup>6</sup>

The farm is centered around a one-story, side-gabled, brick ranch house built in 1950. The front elevation features a decorative gable, and a small recessed porch. Double-hung, vinyl, one-over-one windows are arranged in groups of three on each bay of the front elevation. The house is sited at the termination of Kelly Lane at the top of a small hill. Adjacent to the house are two tobacco barns and a large frame tenant house, both of which likely predate the house and were part of the Hollifield Farm's operations. Agricultural fields and additional agricultural outbuildings extend south and east of the house.

The Hollifield-Watson Farm is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with a significant historic event or person, it does not retain distinctive architectural characteristics, and it is unlikely to yield important archaeological information.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> W.R. Hollifield to James Thomas Peele, Book 1850, Pages 209-210, November 20, 1968; James Thomas Peele to Olen L. Watson, Book 2000, Pages 111-112, June 21, 1971; Olen L. Watson to Watson & Watson of NC, Book 8192, Pages 916-918, November 20, 1998; Watson & Watson of NC to Watson Family Farms of Marks Creek, Book 14811, Pages 1265-1268, June 21, 2012; all deeds at Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

# **ATTACHMENT A:**

# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Tax Map

## EIKFalls OS-093 Lake Myra Lake Myri Marks Creek Lake Myra Rd Pockwood ò Kelly DOWNS Banor Green Seley Farm Rd Ct Poole Rd Twin-Cedar Shaw Pine Hunt Val Straw Cf Beau Tuscan Ridge Dr S eedling eed Rd 'opao Turnipseed Rd Prato S Ct Rd Turnipseed Turnipseed Rdr Bass Rd Lake Wendell Rd

## Turnipseed Nature Preserve Phase II Area

PIN: 1772261939 PIN Ext: 000

Real Estate ID: 0055780 Map Name: 1772 01 Owner: WAKE COUNTY

Mail Address 1: WAKE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S

OFFICE

Mail Address 2: PO BOX 550

Mail Address 3: RALEIGH NC 27602-0550

Deed Book: 011974 Deed Page: 02305 Deed Date: 05/26/2006 Deed Acres: 114.27 Building Value: \$0 Land Value: \$1,589,880 Total Value: \$1,589,880 Billing Class: Exempt

Description: TR1 GEORGE S PLEASANTS

BM2006 -01032 Heat Area: 0

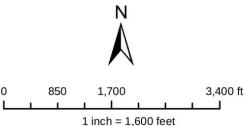
Site Address: 1525 PLEASANTS RD

City:

Township: MARK'S CREEK

Year Built: 0 Sale Price: \$0 Sale Date: Use Type: Design Style: Land Class: EXE

Land Class: EXEMPT Old Parcel Number: --

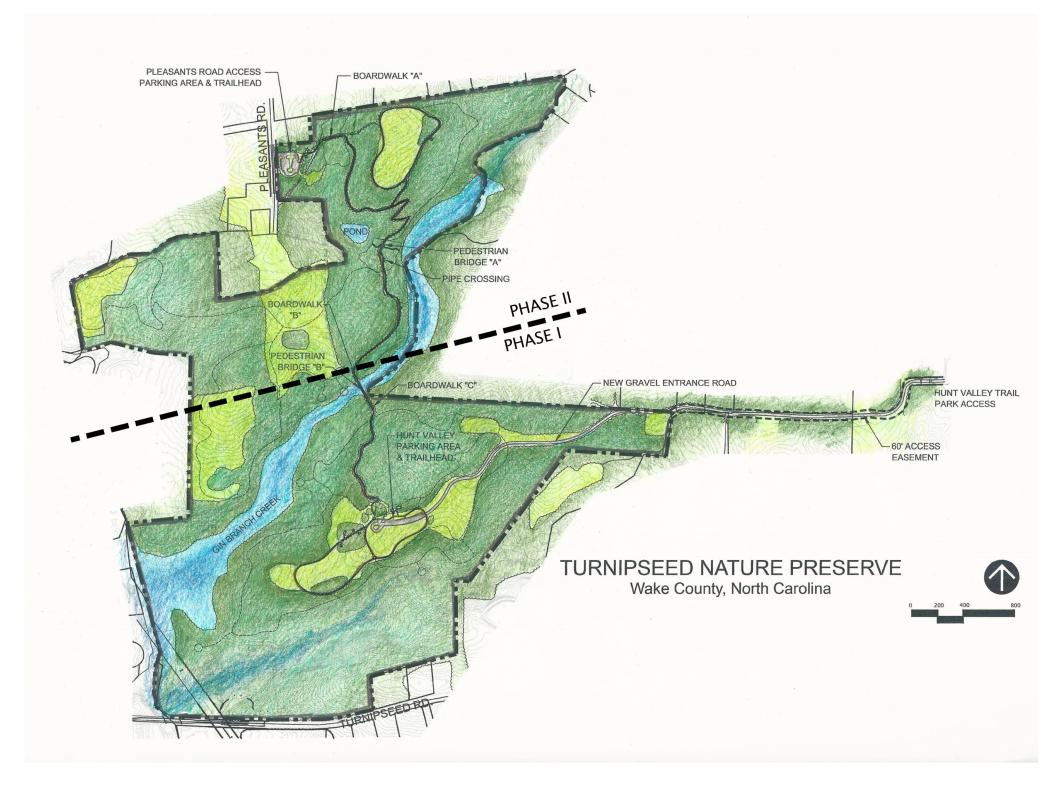


#### **Disclaimer**

Maps makes every effort to produce and publish the most current and accurate information possible. However, the maps are produced for information purposes, and are NOT surveys. No warranties, expressed or implied are provided for the data therein, its use or its interpretation.

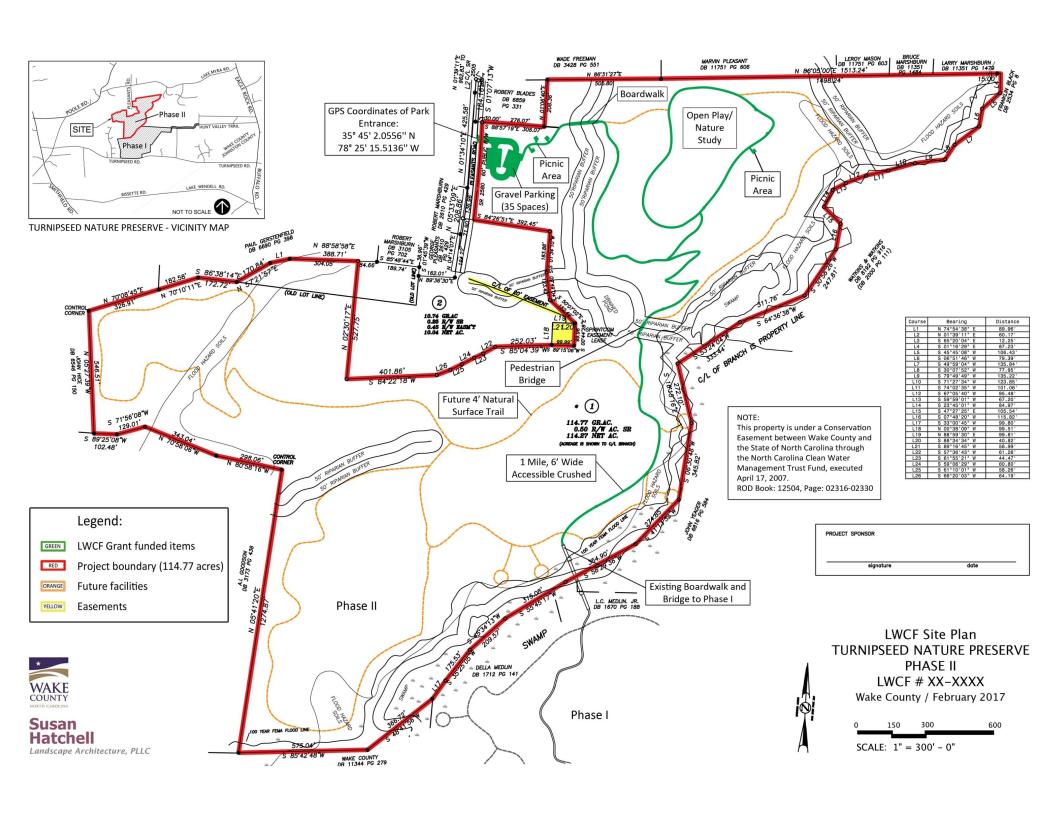
# **ATTACHMENT B:**

# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Phases I & II Rendering



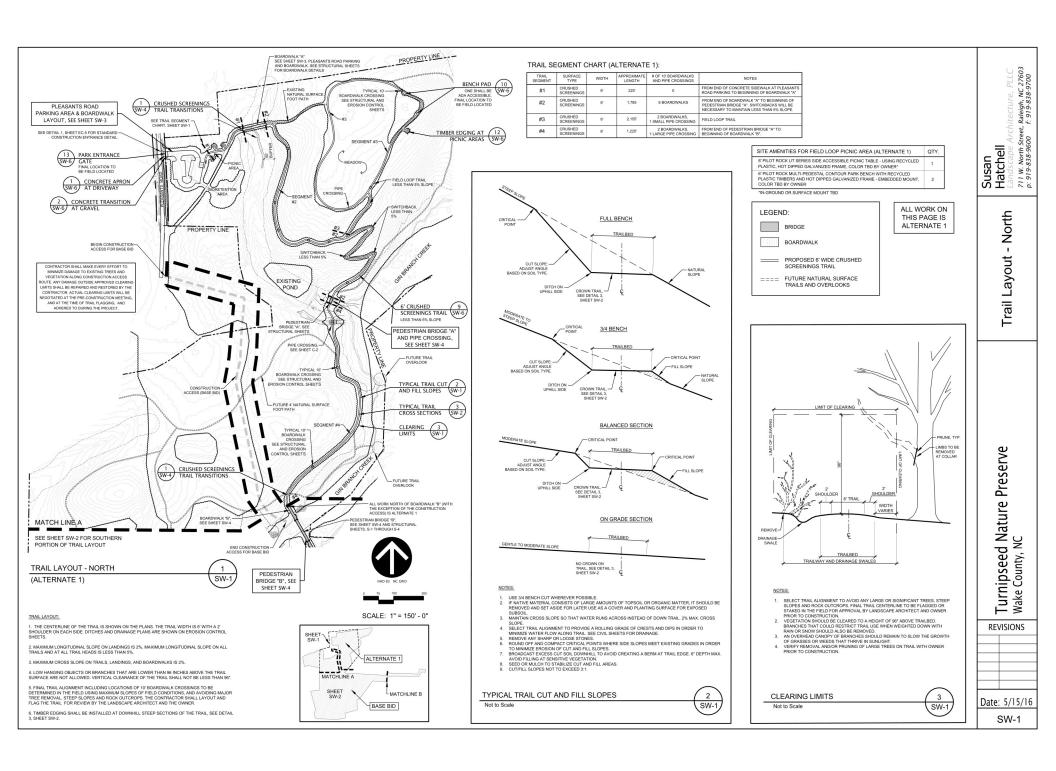
# ATTACHMENT C:

Turnipseed Nature Preserve
Land & Water Conservation Fund
Phase II Site Plan



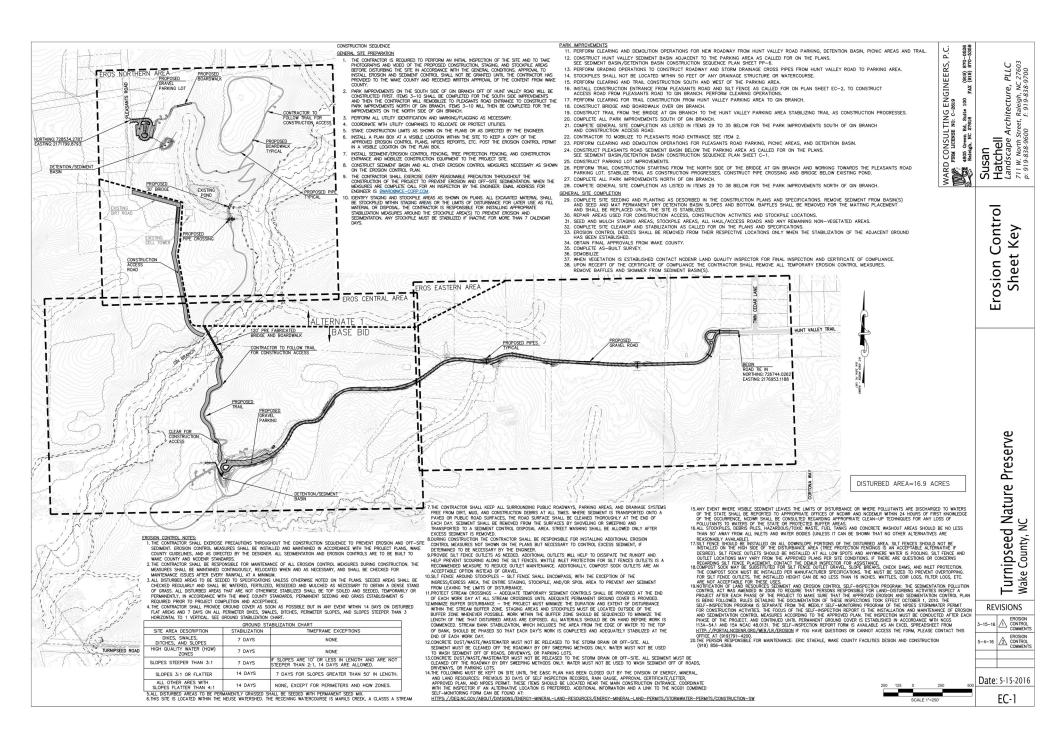
# ATTACHMENT D:

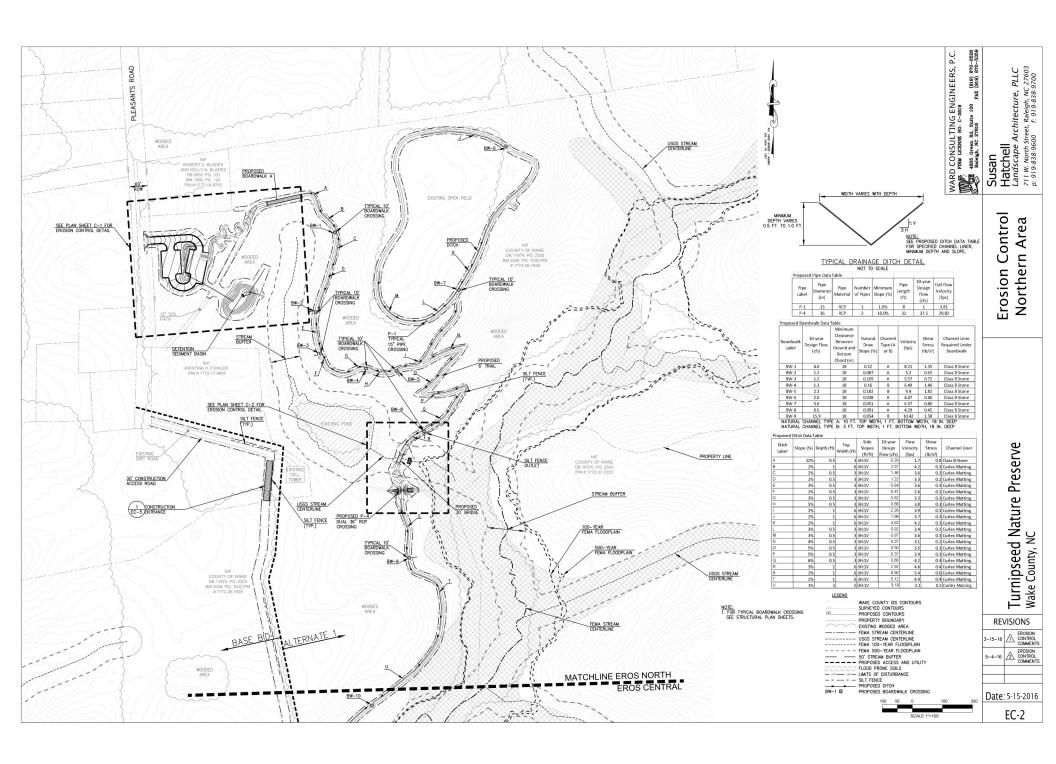
# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Trail Layout Site Plan



# **ATTACHMENT E:**

# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Erosion Control Site Plans

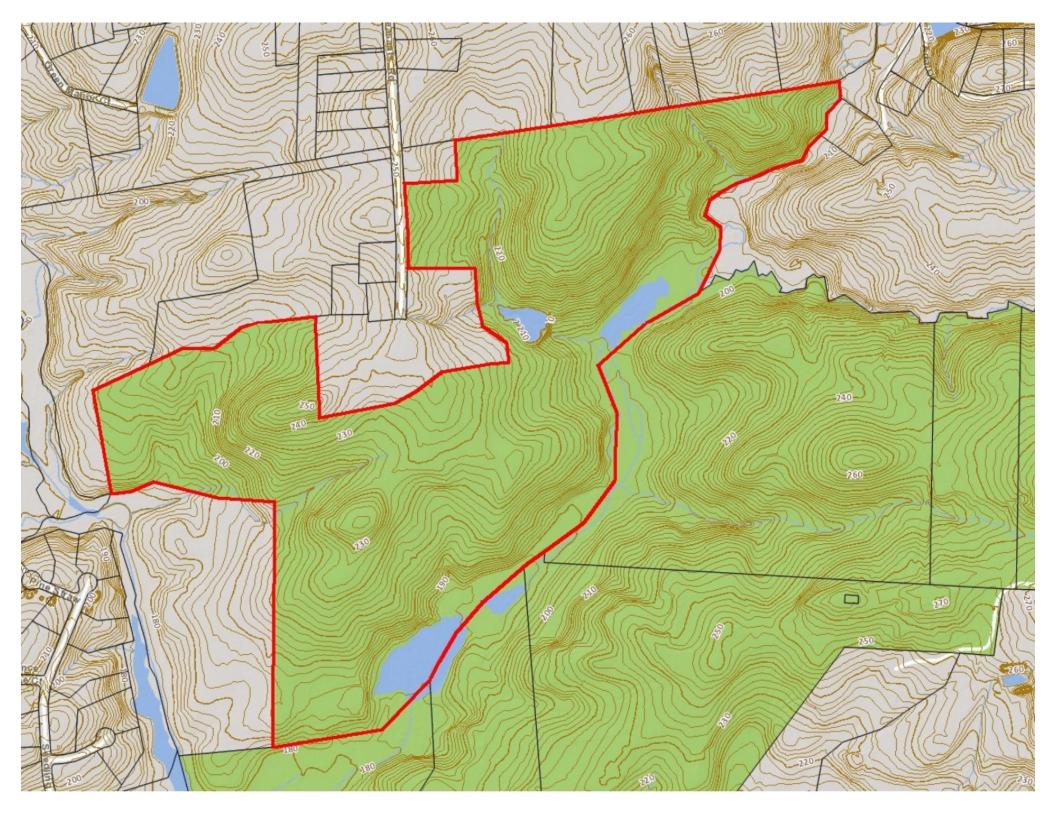




## ATTACHMENT F:

# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Topographical Map

(Portion of Clayton Quad from Raleigh & Wake County iMaps)



## ATTACHMENT G:

# Turnipseed Nature Preserve Topographical Map

(Portion of Clayton Quad from USGS)

