Detailed Implementation Plan

Fiscal Year 2025

Background

The North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2006-78 and became effective on July 10, 2006. CCAP is implemented in accordance with the rules as published 02 NCAC 59 D .0104. The purpose of CCAP is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical and financial assistance.

CCAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The commission meets with stakeholders to gather input on CCAP's development and administration through the CCAP Advisory Committee. CCAP receives approximately $136,000 annually in state appropriations and support for one position in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

The Administrative Code governing the CCAP program allows the Commission to specify in this document, the CCAP annual Detailed Implementation Plan, the proportion of available funds to allocate for cost share payments, technical and administrative assistance, and education and outreach purposes and the proportion of those funds to be allocated to district, regional, and/or statewide allocation pools. This is particularly important given the limited amount of recurring funding currently available in this program. The allocation process is depicted in figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1: Soil and Water Conservation Commission CCAP allocation process

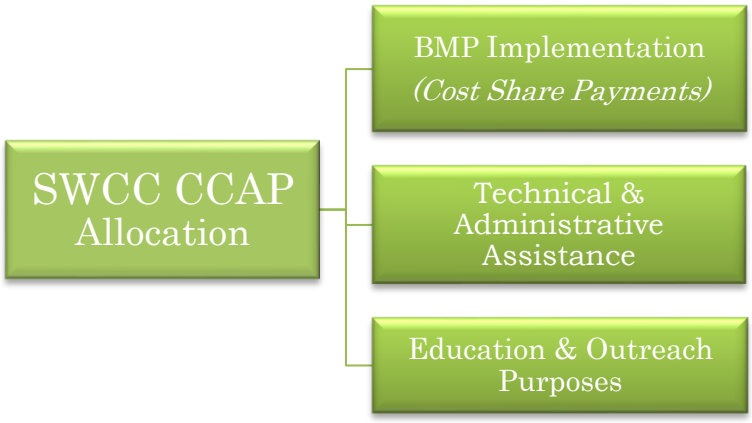
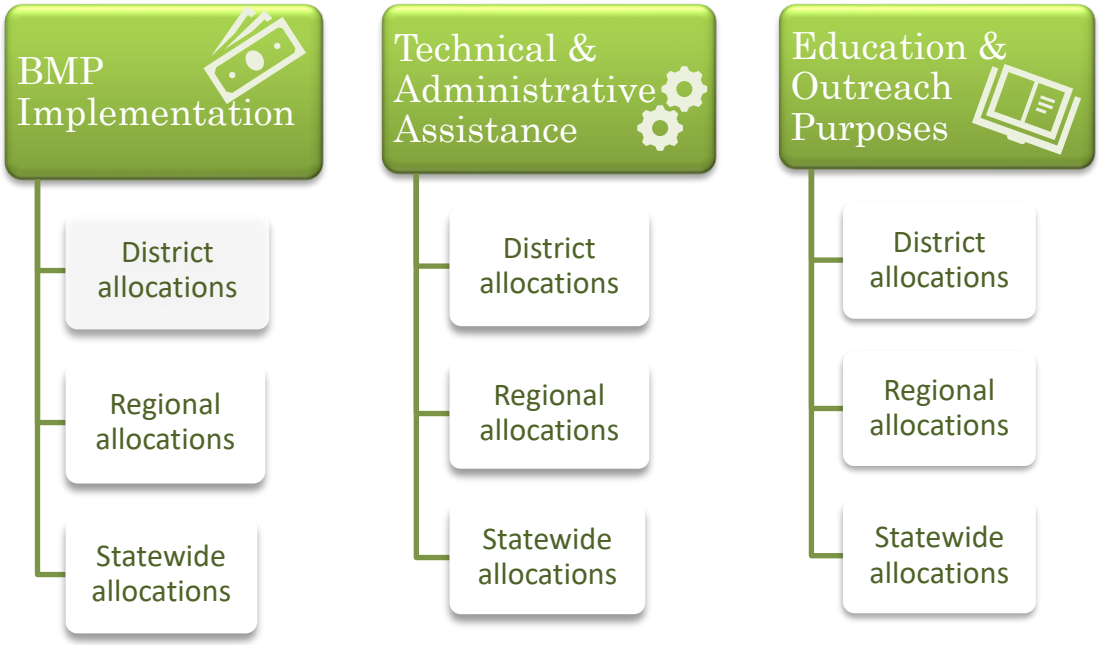
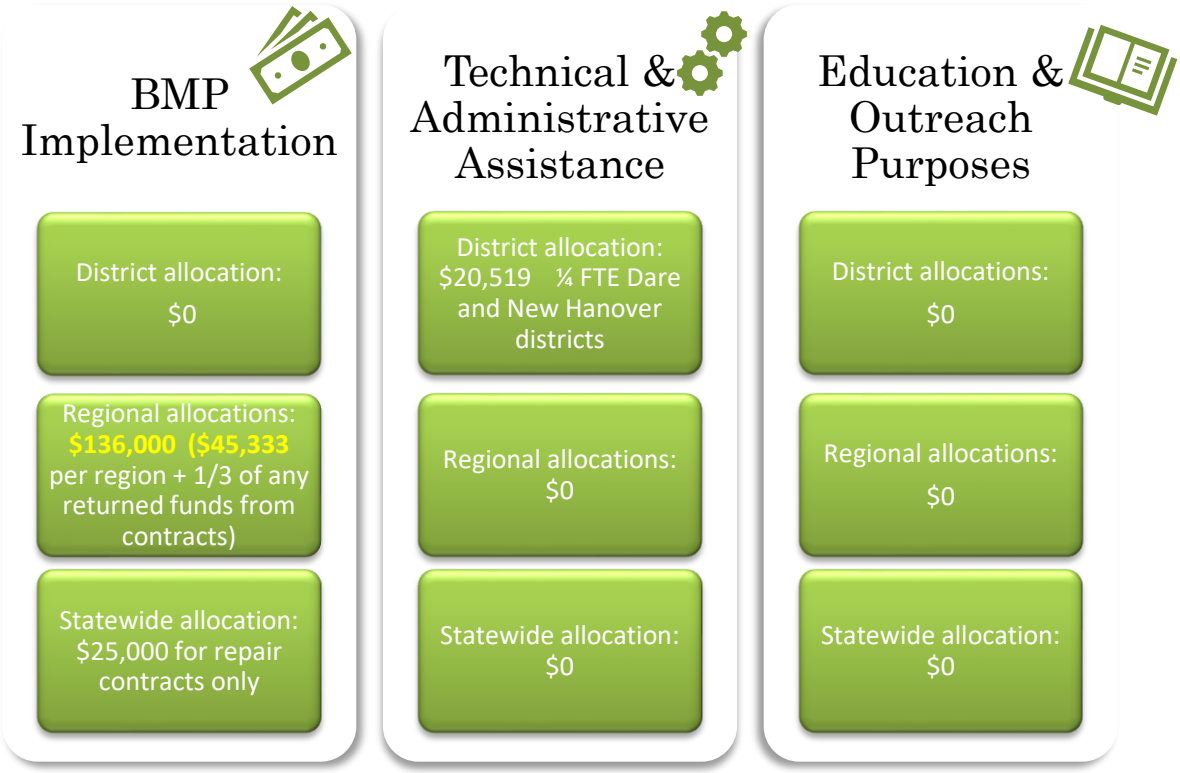


Figure 2: Soil and Water Conservation Commission CCAP allocation process for different funding pools



Fiscal Year 2025 Allocation

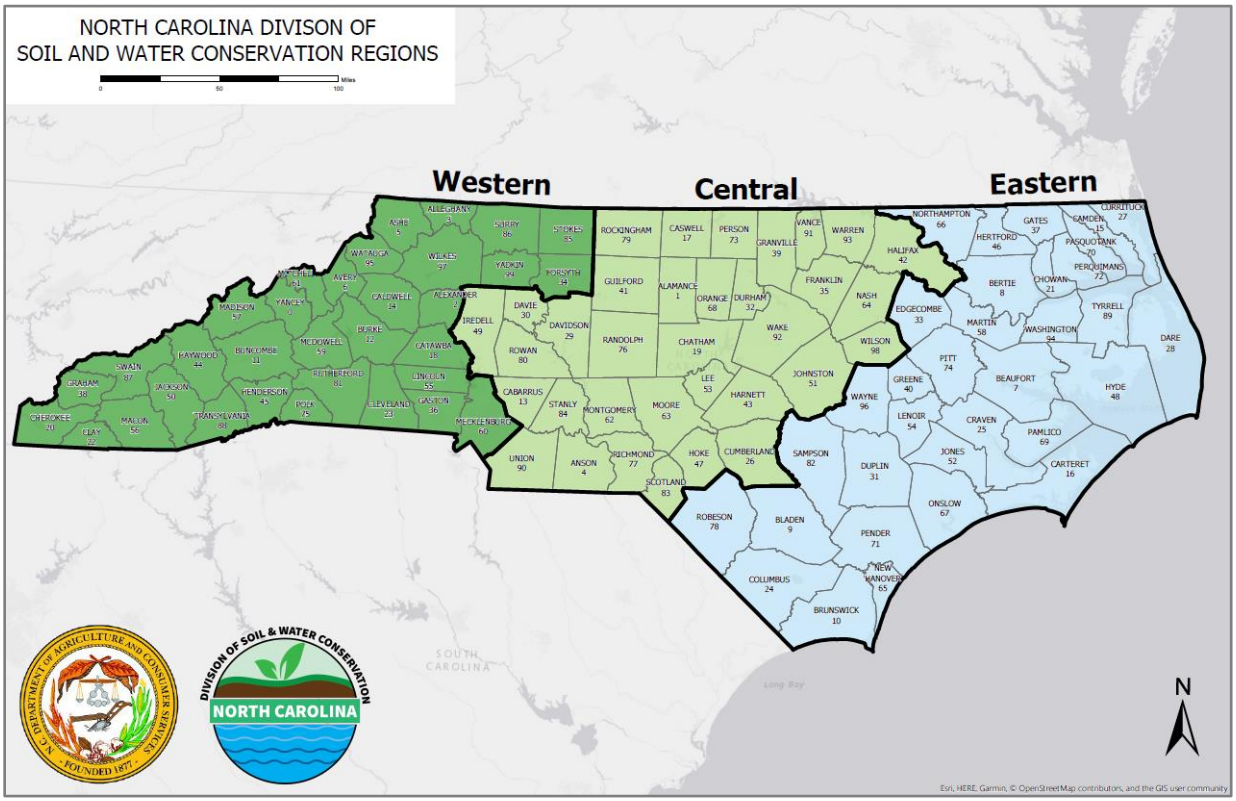
Figure 3: Proposed Soil and Water Conservation Commission FY2024 CCAP Allocation Strategy



The Commission will allocate approximately $136,000 of recurring funds and $500,000 of one-time non-recurring funds through a competitive regional application process for any of the approved 2025 CCAP conservation practices. $25,000 will be allocated statewide for repair contracts. Repairs will be made on a first come, first serve basis until repair funds are fully expended. Repairs will be capped at $5,000 and cost shared at 75% of actual costs based upon receipts. A district may bring a request before the Commission to exceed the cap of $5,000 per repair contract. $20,519 will be allocated to the Dare and New Hanover Districts for ¼ Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position each for Technical and Administrative Assistance.

The remaining funding will be allocated for BMP Implementation and will be divided among the regions as depicted in figure 4. Any funds returned to the Division from previous years' contracts will be added to the BMP Implementation allocation pool and divided among the three regions. Applications will be approved using the same ranking criteria for each region. Should a region not have sufficient applications to fund, the Commission will allocate the remaining funds by approving applications in other regions, funding applications by highest score, with a just-in-time allocation. The maximum CCAP cost share allocation per project will be limited to $50,000 and the district allocation will be limited to $100,000.

Figure 4: Division of Soil and Water Conservation Service Regions for CCAP allocations



Fiscal Year 2025 Goals

I. Conduct a competitive regional allocation process for CCAP BMPs.
   a. Fund projects in each of the division's regions: western, central and eastern.
   b. Distribute funding for BMPs consistent with the Ranking Form with those of the highest ranking in each region receiving allocations until depleted.
   c. Continue funding repair contracts as needed

II. Continue to implement the program
   a. Ensure the One-Time Non-Recurring funds for the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years are on track for implementation
   b. Maintain the CCAP website with all relevant information
   c. Maintain the job approval database
   d. Continue developing online tests for job approval authority
   e. Continue supporting district personnel in online testing and Commission procedures to obtain job approval authority
   f. Implement CCAP education and outreach efforts

Best Management Practices

Additional practices may be adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and introduced during the program year. Sites must have been developed for three years or more to be eligible for cost share assistance, and unless otherwise specified, the minimum life of all practices is 10 years. For single-family home sites, the minimum life of all practices is five years because these properties change owners more frequently.

(1) Abandoned well closure is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals and machinery.

(2) Bioretention area is the use of plants and soils for removal of pollutants from stormwater runoff. Bioretention can also be effective in reducing peak runoff rates, runoff volumes and recharging groundwater by infiltrating runoff. Bioretention areas are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.

(3) A backyard rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground that captures runoff from a driveway, roof, or lawn and allows it to soak into the ground, rather than running across roads, capturing pollutants and delivering them to a stream. Backyard rain gardens are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.

(4) Backyard wetlands are constructed systems that mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They can temporarily store, filter and clean runoff from driveways, roofs and lawns, and thereby improve water quality. The wetland should be expected to retain water or remain saturated for two to three weeks. Backyard wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.

(5) A cistern is a system of collection and diversion practices to prevent stormwater from flowing across impervious areas, collecting sediment and reaching the storm drains. Benefits may include the reduction of stormwater runoff thereby reducing the opportunity for pollution to enter the storm drainage system.

(6) A critical area planting means an area of highly erodible land, which cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation and improved surface water quality.

(7) A diversion means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality.

(8) A grassed swale consists of a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, and sedimentation and improve the quality of surface water pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(9) Impervious surface conversion means the removal of impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water, and prevent precipitation from infiltrating soils. Removal of these impervious materials, when combined with permeable pavement or vegetation establishment, is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.

(10) Permeable pavement means materials that are designed to allow water to flow through them and thus reduce the imperviousness of traffic surfaces, such as patios, walkways, sidewalks, driveways and parking areas.

(11) A pet waste receptacle means a receptacle designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after animals in parks, neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and other public spaces so as to prevent waste from being transported off-site by stormwater runoff. A receptacle includes both a bag dispenser or container and a trash can.

(12) A riparian buffer means an area adjacent to a stream where a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (sod, shrubs, trees or a combination of vegetation types) is established to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

(13) Stormwater wetland means a constructed system that mimics the functions of natural wetlands and is designed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater quality and quantity. Stormwater wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.

(14) A stream restoration system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambanks. "All FY 2024 Stream Restoration BMPs will require designs to be completed by third party engineers."

(15) Streambank and shoreline protection is defined as the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels against scour and erosion.

(16) Marsh sills protect estuarine shorelines from erosion, combining engineered structures with natural vegetation to maintain, restore, or enhance the shoreline's natural habitats. A sill is a coast-parallel, long or short structure built with the objective of reducing the wave action on the shoreline by forcing wave breaking over the sill. Sills are used to provide protection for existing coastal marshes, or to retain sandy fill between the sill and the eroding shoreline, to establish suitable elevations for the restoration or establishment of coastal marsh and/or riparian vegetation.

(17) A structural stormwater conveyance includes various techniques to divert and/or control runoff from paved surfaces where a vegetated diversion is not feasible. The purpose is to manage stormwater runoff (sheet flow or concentrated) from a direct discharge point and divert or control it to an approved BMP, a naturally vegetated area, or to eliminate gully erosion.

Table 1: Best Management Practices eligible for cost share, minimum life expectancy of each practice, and the practice type

BMP	Maintenance Period of BMP*	Practice Type
Abandoned well closure	1	N/A
Backyard raingarden	10	Design
Backyard wetland	10	Design
Bioretention area	10	PE Design only
Cisterns	10	Design
Critical Area Planting	10	Design
Diversion	10	Design
Grassed swale	10	Design
Impervious surface conversion	10	Design
Marsh sill	10	N/A
Permeable pavement	10	Design
Pet waste receptacle	10	N/A
Riparian buffer	10	Design
Stream restoration	10	PE Design only
Streambank and shoreline stabilization	10	Design
Stormwater wetland	10	PE Design only
Structural stormwater conveyance	10	Design

**** The maintenance period for single-family home sites is five years with the exception of Abandoned Well Closure which is one year***