The WakeNature Preserves Partnership as an Example of Community Engagement

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University Education in Natural Resources
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Who We Are

People & organizations focused on conservation
.:: citizens
.:: government agencies
.:: non-profit organizations
.:: universities

United by shared concerns about the highest-quality natural areas within parks systems.

Shared needs & complementary assets.

Recognize the value & necessity of a collaborative approach to stewarding highest-quality natural areas.
Our Mission

.: organize and provide resources to identify ecologically valuable, protected open spaces within Wake County

.: build capacity for appropriate, long-term stewardship of those areas
Our Vision

A county-wide nature preserve system … developed and supported through the collaboration of all local parks departments … other interested organizations… and a corps of citizen volunteers.
What We Have Been Doing

.: identifying ecologically valuable areas
.: piloting our ideas by partnering with Wake County
.: enlisting partners and volunteers

.: developing engaged learning opportunities
Engaged Learning

Platform for teaching, research, and student engagement

.: courses
.: internships
.: research projects
.: work days
.: volunteer opportunities
Service-Learning Framework

Integrate instruction, meaningful community service, & reflection.

Benefit community, faculty, & students.
Academic Enhancement

Civic Learning

Personal Growth

S-L
Academic Enhancement

Student

Coursework \( \leftrightarrow \) Experience

Civic Learning

Inspired to be civically engaged

Finding voice & passion

Personal Growth
Academic Enhancement

Community Partner

New ways of thinking & doing

Empower public involvement

Civic Learning

I ❤️ the total experience

Personal Growth
Academic Enhancement

Faculty
- Leadership & collaboration
  - Value of public process
  - Patience
  - Personal Growth

Civic Learning
Academic Enhancement

Student
Community Partner
Faculty

Coursework ↔ Experience
New ways of thinking & doing
Leadership & collaboration

Inspired to be civically engaged
Empower public involvement
Value of public process

Finding voice & passion
I love the total experience
Patience

Civic Learning
Personal Growth
Overall effect

Flattens the academic and social playing field.

Students, partners, faculty become co-learners, co-educators, co-generators of knowledge.
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