

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AGENCY GOALS

North Carolina
Department of Natural and
Cultural Resources
2024

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) manages, promotes, and enhances the things that people love in North Carolina – its diverse arts and culture, rich history, spectacular natural areas. With 28 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, four science museums and two outdoor science education centers, three aquariums, Jennette's Pier, 42 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, the African American Heritage Commission, State Preservation Office, Office of State Archaeology, and Division of Land and Water Stewardship, DNCR manages the treasures of the state. These things unite North Carolinians, create a shared identity, and provide common ground. DNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in North Carolina by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and nature by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development. DNCR's vision is to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Every day, DNCR's places, programs, and ideas strengthen education, improve public health, enhance quality of life, and support robust economic growth across North Carolina.

The Deputy Secretary for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion is the environmental justice and equity lead for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, serving as the agency point person for environmental justice efforts, informs development and implementation of the agency public participation plan The Deputy Secretary works with environmental justice leads in other agencies to share and coordinate related activities, best practices, and relevant data.

1. Ensure minority, low-income, and tribal communities are provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful involvement in the Department's efforts to increase access to parks, recreation, and open spaces.

DNCR 1.1 – Offer 8-10 interpretation and translation meetings for DNCR's EO246 public participation plan in four (4) regions (Blue Ridge, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain, and the Outer Coastal Plain). Offer at least two (2) meetings per region.

DNCR 1.2 – Establish four (4) working partnerships from among members from the aging, disabled, minority, low-income, and tribal communities.

DNCR 1.3 – Using state mapping systems, DNCR will work with at least three (3) environmental justice organizations to support affected communities through increased access to parks, trails, greenways, and open spaces for recreation near marginalized populations.

DNCR 1.4 – Ensure that data on inequitable access to healthy outdoor recreation is factored into the Division of Parks and Recreation's future planning and mapping of priorities and translated into other languages using the language selection tab on all DNCR websites.

**2. Identify and address environmental policies and practices that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations
Incorporate Environmental Justice considerations in land and facility usage.**

DNCR 2.1 – Use at least five (5) internships and other division programs to gain and share expertise or scientific knowledge to further environmental justice goals. Internship experiences will be shared during the streamed and in-person closing ceremony presentations.

DNCR 2.2 – In collaboration with partners, conduct at least one (1) meeting per quarter, either virtual or in-person public meetings, listening sessions, or forums, as

needed based on public interest and project requirements, in a manner that is accessible to and inclusive of aging, disabled, minority, low-income, and tribal populations. Outreach will be conducted at a higher education institution, recreation center, library, or DNCR facility..

3. Use existing NC Land and Water Fund and Parks and Recreation Trust Fund opportunities to assist and empower aging, disabled, minority, low-income, and tribal populations in their efforts to build and sustain environmentally safe and economically sound communities with sufficient access to outdoor recreation.

DNCR 3.1 – Provide at least five (5) in-kind technical assistance opportunities to the members of the aging, disabled, minority, low-income, and tribal communities for projects and research that focus on solutions that address the adverse human health and negative environmental consequences that disproportionately impact their communities, attributable to a lack of access to outdoor recreation resources.

DNCR 3.2 – Conduct at least four (4) community-based grant trainings and/or webinars to aging, disabled, minority, low-income, and tribal communities.

DNCR 3.2 (a) – DNCR will research and analyze past funding awards and practices to review equitable funding allocation to underserved communities, concerning environmental justice considerations.

DNCR 3.2 (b) – Upon review of the research, DNCR will consider ways to expand funding awards to disadvantaged communities and underserved populations.