



## 2001 - Hillsborough District Mitigation Program

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) implemented an innovative hazard mitigation program in the Hillsborough District; known as the Research Triangle Park area. It's one of the fastest growing areas in the country, creating extreme wildland/urban interface challenges. The DFR partnered with the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation and local fire departments to mitigate interface hazards, encourage Firewise concepts, and increase public awareness. Hazards were reduced around the 5,439-acre Umstead State Park, which is surrounded by residential communities, an international airport, and major highways. Recent hurricanes added a great deal of fuel to the park. To reduce risks, the DFR:

- Coordinated with local fire departments and NC Division of Parks and Recreation to identify high hazard areas in Willow Creek and Oak Hill areas
- Conducted hazard mitigation planning meetings with NC Division of Parks and Recreation and local emergency service agencies
- Conducted community outreach meetings with homeowners associations and residents to discuss interface hazards and Firewise concepts
- Collected fire history, GIS data, airport, highway, and community maps for the Willow Creek and Oak Hill areas to develop hazard mitigation plans
- Developed a hazard mitigation burning program with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation to reduce the interface fire risk
- Executed several hazard mitigation burns to reduce risks in the most critical areas

As a result of this program, communities surrounding this park are now educated and aware of their interface hazards, and the NC Division of Parks and Recreation has made progress to reduce fire hazards in the park. The planning completed between the local NC Division of Parks and Recreation and DFR personnel has set an example for other parks to follow.

For more information contact:

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