



News from the forest

Wildland Urban Interface Workday

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest (TCESF) held a wildland urban interface (WUI) workday May 18. The event was originally part of F.L.A.M.E Week (Fire Learning and Mitigation Education) held back in February but was postponed. As part of this workday, participants learned about WUI and were able to examine their own homes and assess what changes could be implemented to make their homes more defensible against wild-fire. Participants had the opportunity to assist N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) staff with fireescaping the defensible space model in TCESF's wildfire control exhibit. The patio and flower beds were successfully installed during the workday. With help from staff at Bladen Lakes State Forest (BLSF) before the workday, the underpinning and steps were successfully installed. Following the workday, staff at TCESF assisted by other NCFS staff, were able to get the remaining flower beds installed and plant most of the remaining vegetation. Remaining tasks include installing the flag-stone path in front of the model as well as the nearby fire tower. Keep reading to the next page for more information about the project.



Visitor Hours

March 1– Oct. 31

Monday: closed

Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 1- end of February

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: Closed
4803 Sweet Home Church Rd.

Elizabethtown, NC 28337

(910) 588-4161

Turnbullcreekesf.ncfs@ncagr.gov

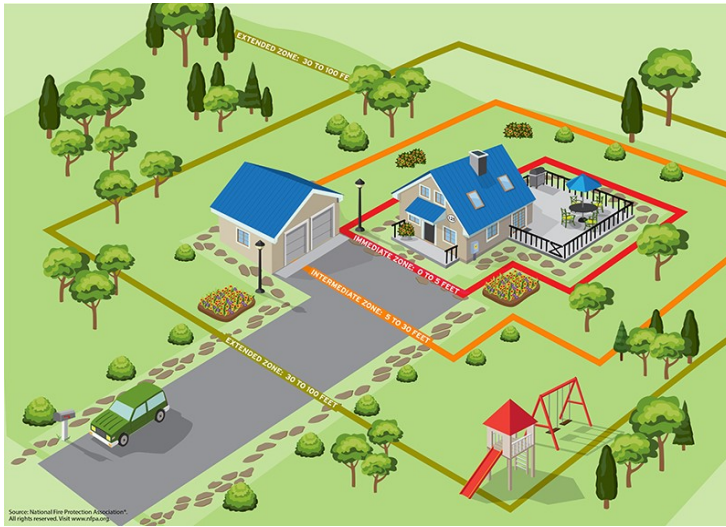
Visit all of North Carolina's state forests from the coast to the mountains. See NCFS website for more information, www.ncforestservice.gov

Fun Forest Find!

Wild turkey



Wild turkey poults were found on the airfield. During this time, TCESF staff let the airfield grow to serve as habitat for the turkey. While out on the forest, the poults were spotted and mom was nearby keeping a watchful eye!



The top image to the left courtesy of the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) shows the home ignition zone model. There are three different zones:

Immediate: 0-5 ft. from home foundation

This zone is most susceptible to fire embers. Modifications can be made to the home to help defend against wildfire while also installing fire resistant landscaping in the area around the home.

Intermediate: 5-30 ft. from home foundation

This zone is the second line of defense to help decrease fire behavior. Installing landscaping/hardscaping can serve as fire breaks that may stop or slow approaching fire.

Extended: 30-100 ft. from home foundation

This zone is intended to keep the fire small and on the ground rather than in tree tops. Tree/shrub spacing is to be considered for this zone as well as the intermediate to decrease potential for ember spread.

The bottom image to the left shows the model exhibit plan intended for the defensible space at TCESF based on the home ignition zone guidelines.



Wildland Urban Interface Defensible Space Model Ranger Station

Once all landscaping/hardscaping has been installed, we'll plan to outfit the model with educational signage and forestry and fire tools to resemble a ranger station for the nearby fire tower. For more information about the WUI, check out the resources below. Stay tuned for the continued progress and the final product!

Resources

[Preparing Homes for Wildfire](#)

[Resist Wildfire NC](#)

[Wildfire Risk in NC](#)

[Fire Resistant Landscaping in NC](#)



Forest updates and improvements

Tree planting

TCESF successfully planted about 500 trees on a four-acre tract early this spring. This tract is intended to serve as a wildlife plot with hardwood trees such as bitternut hickory, sugarberry, mulberry, plum and crabapple. More hardwood will be planted on this tract during the winter to complete the project. We'd like to thank NCFS staff who came out to lend a hand to get the job done!



Breaking ground

TCESF is constructing a new equipment storage building. This building will house the myriad of equipment and tools staff utilize for day to day operations. Recently, the concrete foundation for the building was poured and construction will begin soon. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

- Investigating Your Environment Educator Workshop July 14 -19, see NCFS website for details.
- TCESF Saturday Class: True Story of Smokey Bear August 10, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Smokey Bear Poster Contest for school age students coming in August, stay tuned!



The North Carolina Forest Service is a division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Steve Troxler, Commissioner

