# NATURE'S BENEFITS

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Community Knowledge of Plant and Animal Connections to Water Quality

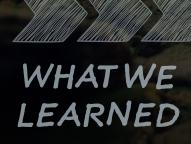
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HABITAT

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### **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

FILTERING



CLEANING

Central and eastern NC communities connected plants and animals to helpful functions that support what scientists refer to as **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** (for example, contributing to safe water for recreation). Presence or health of plants and animals were important INDICATORS OF WATER QUALITY AND BALANCE IN NATURE (for example, having the right amount of algae or vegetation). Community impressions aligned with knowledge of scientists, who use similar language, including "indicators." These findings may EMPOWER NC COMMUNITIES to participate in water quality management discussions, and HELP SCIENTISTS ENGAGE with communities on important issues related to ecosystem and community well-being.

AUTHORS: Jennifer Archambault, Catherine LePrevost and Greg Cope. Graphic design by Neil McCoy. Funding provided by the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund.

### NC STATE EXTENSION

Alga

Fishes

WATER QUALITY

Beavers

## INDICATOR

### BALANCE