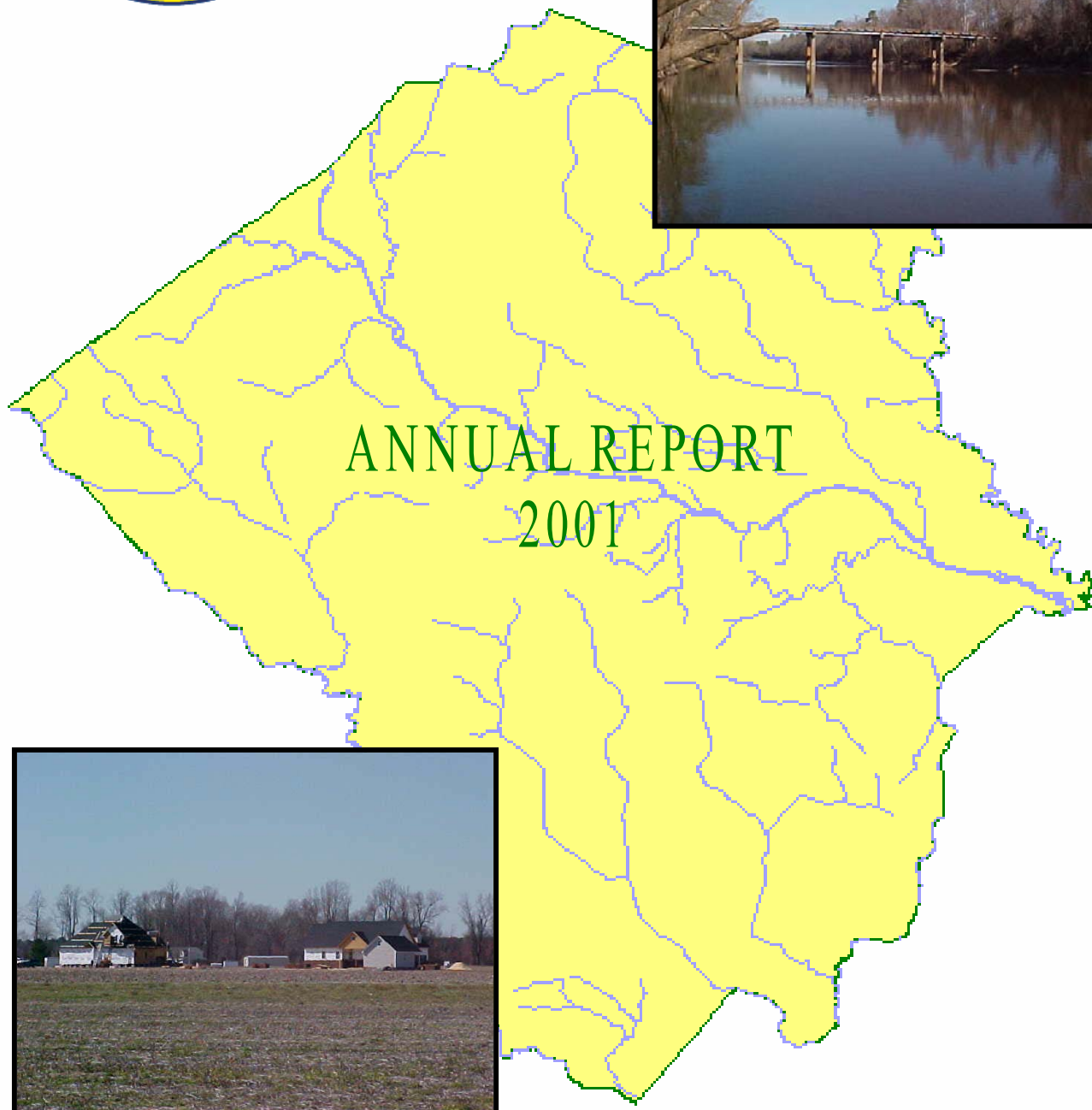




PITT COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



March, 2002

To All Interested Individuals:

The Pitt County Planning Board and Planning staff proudly present the Pitt County Planning Department's Annual Report for 2001. This report outlines and describes the department's numerous activities and projects, and highlights the department's major accomplishments over the past year. As described in the report, the Year 2001 proved to be eventful for staff and brought many new challenges to the Planning Department. Staff is extremely proud of progress made on several on-going projects and activities, including development review, floodplain management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, housing programs, E-911 addressing, and transportation/recreation planning. Staff is especially pleased with the flood recovery and land use planning efforts headed by the department during the year. In addition to the department's accomplishments for 2001, the Annual Report provides a listing of the future work programs and activities to be pursued by the department staff in 2002.

To learn more about Pitt County Planning Department's numerous activities and accomplishments, please read the Annual Report for 2001 or contact the Pitt County Planning Department at (252) 902-3250. Thank you for your interest in planning-related functions in Pitt County.

Sincerely,

James Rhodes, AICP
Planning Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WHAT IS PITT COUNTY PLANNING?

The Pitt County Planning Department is a branch of Pitt County Government and is dedicated to providing planning services to citizens located within the Pitt County Planning Jurisdiction (refer to **Map 1** on following page). A primary focus of the Planning Department is to guide long-range development and address land use issues in Pitt County, including the preparation of land use plans, as well as the administration of developmental regulations relating to specific land uses. Such land uses include subdivisions, manufactured home parks, and multifamily developments. Planning staff is responsible for the maintenance of the countywide addressing system, which involves the assignment of addresses, the naming of roads, installation of signs, and the maintenance of official road name lists. In addition, staff is involved with other projects such as transportation planning, population studies, and computerized mapping using the County's Geographic Information System.

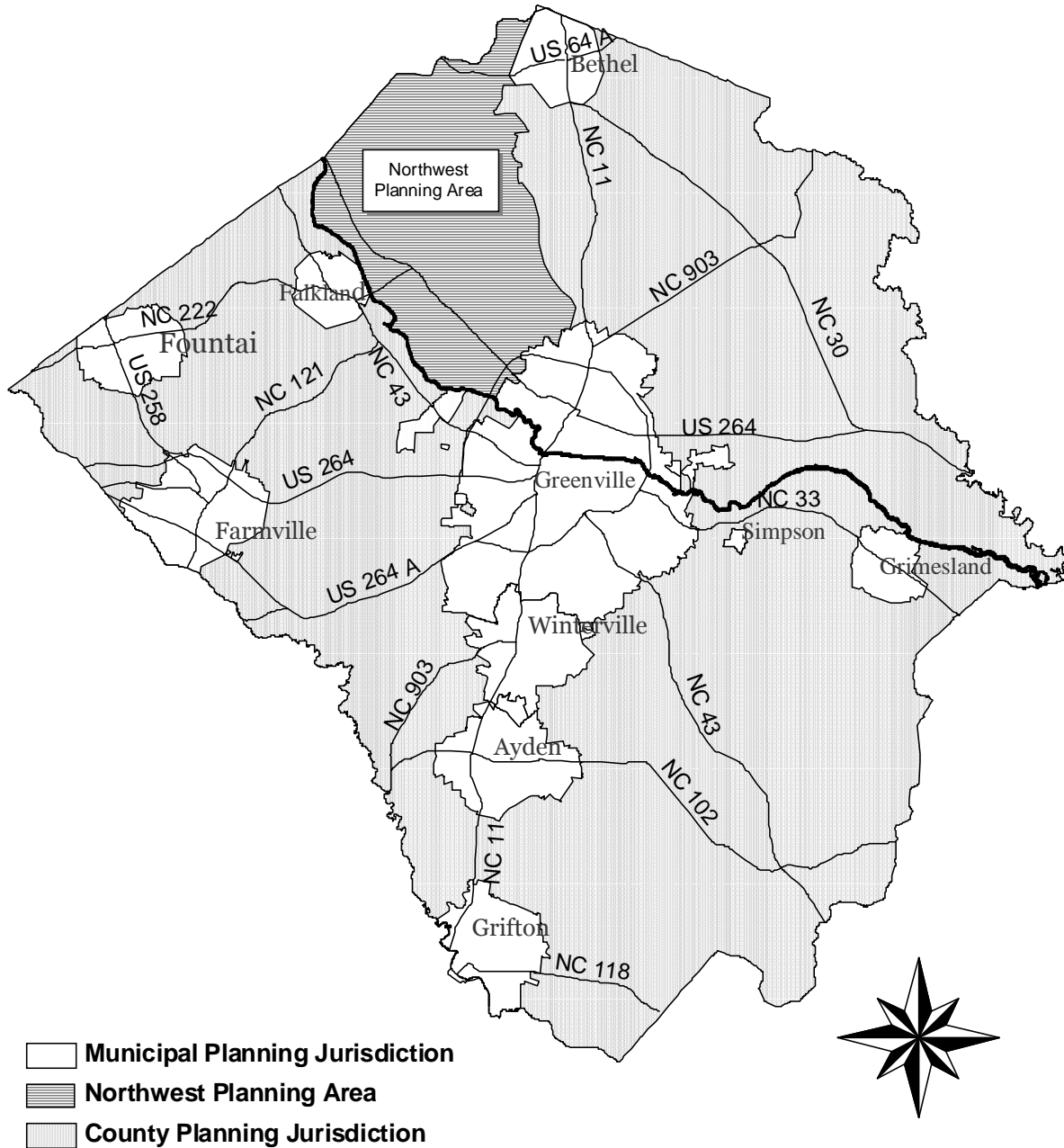
Over the past few years, several municipalities have requested that Pitt County administer County ordinances within the municipalities' planning jurisdictions. These services are provided to the municipalities free of charge. Listed in **Table 1** below are the various ordinances administered by Pitt County and the jurisdictions in which those ordinances are administered.

TABLE 1 PITT COUNTY ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATION

Ordinance	Jurisdiction								
	Pitt	Ayden	Bethel	Falkland	Fountain	Grifton	Grimesland	Simpson	Winterville
Addressing	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Flood Damage Prevention	X		X (Pending)			X	X		X
Manufactured Home Park	X								
Multi-Family	X								
Northwest Planning Area Zoning	X								
Outdoor Advertising Signs	X								
Shooting Range	X								
Soil Erosion and Sediment. Control	X			X			X	X	X
Subdivision	X						X	X	
Water Supply Watershed	X			X					

PITT COUNTY PLANNING JURISDICTION

MAP 1 PLANNING JURISDICTIONS



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Pitt County has several ordinances that regulate specific types of land uses and/or developments. The Planning Department is responsible for administering these development specific ordinances, which include the Subdivision Ordinance, Manufactured Home Park Ordinance, and Multifamily Dwelling Ordinance. But to a lesser degree, the Planning Department also administers the County's Shooting Range Ordinance, Outdoor Advertising Sign Ordinance, and Water Supply Watershed Ordinance.

The Pitt County Development Ordinances, especially the Subdivision, Manufactured Home Park, and Multifamily Ordinances, require the submittal of plats or plans to the Planning Department for review. The ordinances provide minimum guidelines that must be addressed by the developer to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare are adequately protected. The Department's review of the plats or plans ensures that each proposed development meets the specific standards outlined in the appropriate ordinance.

During 2002, the Pitt County Planning Department reviewed and approved **170** plats and plans. These included preliminary, construction and final plans for subdivisions and mobile home parks, and preliminary and as-built plans for multifamily developments. Listed in **Table 2** below is a monthly breakdown of the number of plats and plans reviewed and approved by the Pitt County Planning Department for 2001.

TABLE 2 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PLATS AND PLANS

Plats / Plans	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Preliminary Plats	8	1	7	9	10	6	5	5	8	2	3	6	70
Construction Plans	1	5	-	1	1	6	1	-	2	2	1	-	20
Final Plats	5	5	6	2	7	8	12	5	7	10	2	4	73
MHP Preliminary Plans	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
MHP Construction Plans	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
MHP As-Built Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preliminary Multi-Family Plan	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
As-Built Multi-Family Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	17	11	13	12	18	22	20	10	17	14	6	10	170

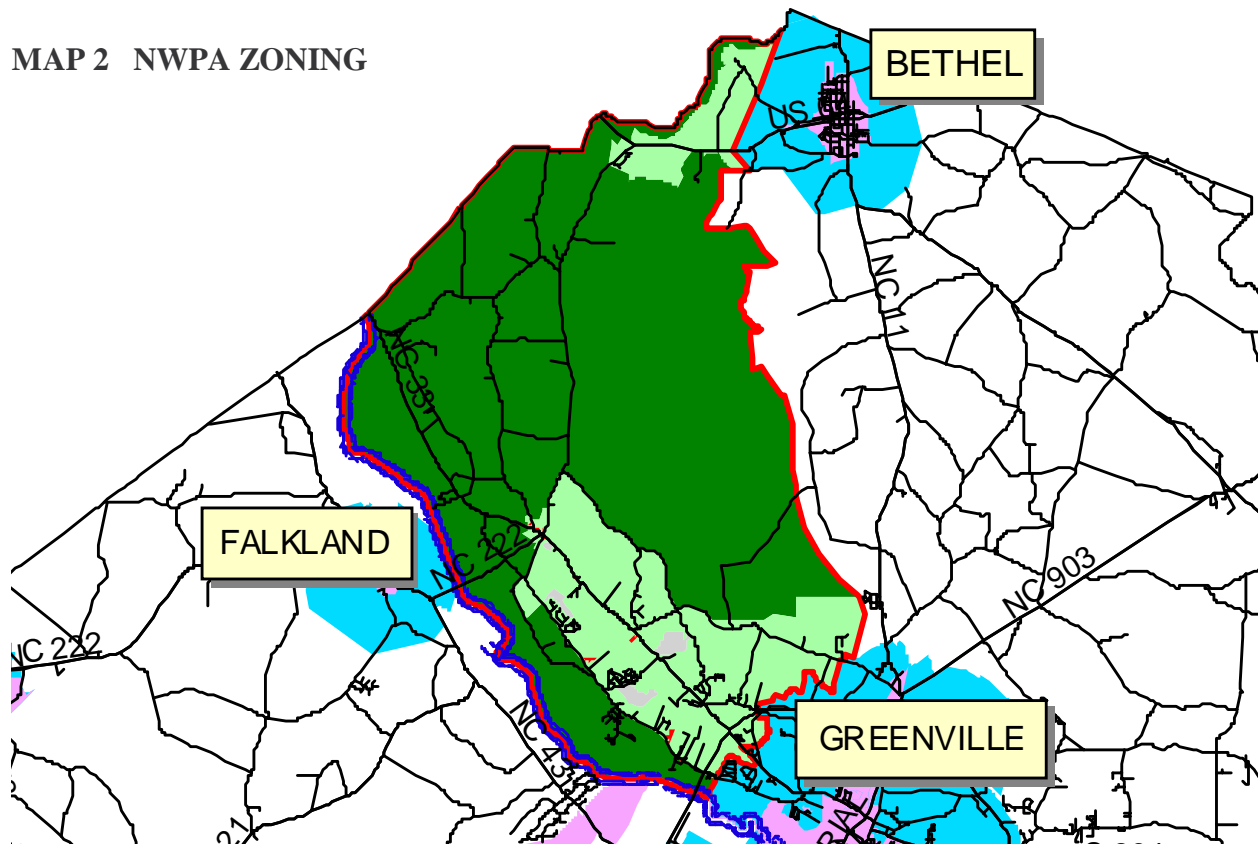
NORTHWEST PLANNING AREA

The year 2001 proved historical for Pitt County in that a zoning ordinance was adopted and enforced for a small part of the County's planning jurisdiction for the first time. On January 22, 2001, after more than a year of preparation, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners adopted the Northwest Planning Area Zoning Ordinance with an effective date of July 1, 2001. This followed the adoption of the associated Land Use Plan on January 8, 2001.

The Northwest Planning Area covers 38,726 acres of land with approximately 5,532 residents. The area lies between the Grindle Pocosin and the Tar River, and extends from the planning jurisdiction of Greenville to the Edgecombe County line (see **Map 2** for location). NC Highway 33 and the Belvoir Community serve as the catalyst for development within the area, which has rapidly developed over the past ten years and required the construction of a new elementary school.

The Northwest Planning Area Land Use Plan is a document that serves as a blueprint for development over a 20-year period. The plan identifies goals and objectives for the County to consider when making decisions regarding growth and development within the Northwest Planning Area. In order to address some of the goals and citizen's concerns about uncontrolled

MAP 2 NWPA ZONING



growth within the area, the Commissioners' adopted the Northwest Planning Area Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance is a tool that the County can use to better manage and prepare for increased growth, and to regulate land uses that may be offensive within certain neighborhoods or communities. By creating Zoning Districts, the County is able to separate certain incompatible land uses.

During the first half of 2001, Planning staff prepared to administer the Northwest Planning Area Zoning Ordinance. This included the formation of the Pitt County Board of Adjustment. This Board was appointed by the County Commissioners and consisted of five regular members and two alternate members. The primary responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment are to hear and decide appeals, variance requests, and requests for interpretations from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. In addition, the Board acts upon special use permit applications and special exceptions. Planning staff, with the assistance of NC Division of Community Assistance, conducted three workshops to train the new Board members for their new duties and responsibilities. In September, the Board of Adjustment heard and approved its first case. The request was for a variance from the Rural Agricultural lot size requirements of the Northwest Planning Area Zoning Ordinance.

In addition to the management of the Board of Adjustment, the Department began the process of regulating land use within the area. Before the issuance of building permits by Pitt County Inspections Department, citizens are required to obtain a zoning permit from the Planning Department to ensure that the all new structures and land uses meet the standards of the Zoning Ordinance. From July 1, 2001 until December 31, 2001, the Planning Department issued 91 zoning permits. Listed in **Table 3** below is a breakdown of the types of permits issued by Planning staff.

TABLE 3 NWPA ZONING PERMITS

Permits	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Singlewide Mobile Homes	5	10	7	4	9	3	38
Doublewide Mobile Homes	9	9	6	5	5	5	39
Site Built Homes	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Others	3	2	1	1	2	1	10
TOTAL	17	24	15	10	16	9	91

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

Pitt County developed its first Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 1990, which remained unaltered through 2001. The Land Use Plan serves as a blueprint for growth and outlines goals and objectives for the county in terms of growth. This plan provides associated recommendations on land use, transportation, community services/facilities, and the natural environment. The Land Use Plan not only addresses land use/zoning issues but also many other issues related to unincorporated Pitt County.

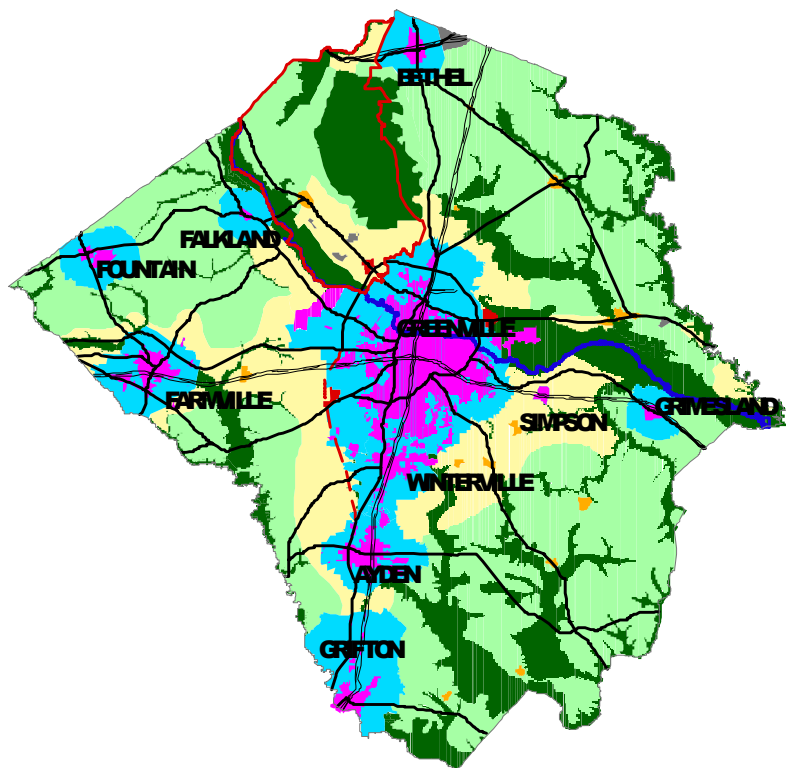
During the 1990's, Pitt County experienced a 24% growth in population. This rapid population growth, along with increased development activities, has made necessary an update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Board of Commissioners recognized this need, and in May 2001 directed Planning staff to begin the planning process for the update. The Pitt County Planning Board was designated as the official advisory committee for the process while The Wooten Company was awarded a contract to assist in the preparation of the plan.

In order to begin the process of updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, an inventory was conducted of the existing land uses within Pitt County's Planning Jurisdiction. From May until September, Planning staff conducted a thorough inventory of all structures and land uses within the County's jurisdiction. The information gathered during the inventory was mapped and analyzed by staff using the County's Geographic Information System. Using the information gathered with the inventory, The Wooten Company was able to compile the Inventory and Analysis section of the Land Use Plan, which identifies land development issues and concerns, economic and demographic data, existing land use, and physical conditions of Pitt County.

Once the Inventory and Analysis was complete, a series of Public Forums was held in October to give citizens an opportunity to review and comment on the document. These forums were held at Chicod Elementary School, Ayden-Grifton High School, Farmville Central High School, and Stokes Elementary School. Though turnout was minimal at these forums, several comments and concerns were received from the public and incorporated into the document.

Pitt County Planning Department
2001 Annual Report

MAP 3 FUTURE LAND USE



Following the public forums, The Wooten Company compiled the Goals and Objectives section of the Land Use Plan. These goals and objectives were developed based on public input, land use issues and concerns, new state and federal regulations, and previous plans developed for Pitt County. The goals were organized into seven categories including growth and development, land use, transportation, appearance, community services and facilities, natural environment, and plan implementation and administration.

The development of the updated Comprehensive Land Use Plan will continue into 2002 with the creation of a future land use map (See **Map 3** on previous page). With the completion of the map and the compilation of all the plan's components, Planning staff will conduct a second series of public forums in early 2002. Following the forums, the Planning Board is to forward a recommended plan to the County Commissioners for consideration.

FLOOD RECOVERY

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Buy-out Program) continued full force through 2001 as a result of the continued need within Pitt County for flood recovery assistance. This program allows for the acquisition and demolition of flood damaged residential structures. Properties included in the program are purchased in fee simple and placed in public ownership, thereby reducing or eliminating the future potential for inappropriate floodplain development. Property owners are paid fair market value for their properties and participation in the program is completely voluntary.

During 2001, Pitt County was given approval of Phase III of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which allows for the buyout of three properties valued at over \$300,000 each. In addition, Pitt County submitted a grant application to FEMA for Phase IV of the program. The grant request included eight additional residential properties and was approved as an amendment to Phase I. In all, 202 properties have been approved for the Buy-out Program. **Table 4** below describes the status of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and provides details on the number of offers, closings, home demolitions, and other preparatory work for the program during 2001.

TABLE 4 HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Offers Made	8	21	9	7	4	6	9	-	-	1	4	-	69
Offers Accepted	5	21	6	7	9	3	8	1	2	2	3	-	67
<i>Closings</i>	10	9	13	14	11	5	8	6	2	4	3	5	90
Homes Demolished	3	9	4	12	12	9	2	7	-	0	1	-	59

State Acquisition and Relocation Fund (SARF)

In May 2000, Pitt County was approved for the State Acquisition and Relocation Fund (SARF) in the amount of \$3.9 million. This grant provides homeowners with the price differential between the pre-flood fair market value of the home being purchased under the HMGP and a comparable replacement home. In 2001, the County assisted 32 homeowners with SARF payments totaling \$576,338.

Buyout Property Leasing

With the increase in amount of properties owned by Pitt County through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, concern arose over the amount of maintenance needed for the properties. In order to lessen the number of properties that the County needed to maintain, the Commissioners agreed to offer the properties to adjacent property owners for their personal use. With this program, the property would remain in the ownership of Pitt County as required by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, but would be leased by Pitt County citizens for use and maintenance.

The leasing program allows individuals to lease county property for a small amount of money. The lease can use the property for personal use as long as no permanent structure is erected on-site. During 2001, the County leased a total of seven (7) properties, which amounted to 35 acres of land being used and maintained by Pitt County citizens.

Crisis Housing Assistance Program

Pitt County Planning Department also continued administration of State Flood Recovery Programs during 2001. Pitt County secured additional funding through an amendment to the County Crisis Housing Assistance Grant for Repair and Replacement Housing totaling \$10,780,000 to rehabilitate 122 homes and replace 99 homes. The State's repair and replacement programs further address flood-related housing needs throughout unincorporated Pitt County for low-moderate income households which did not qualify for the buyout program. **Table 5** describes the status of the repair and replacement programs since funding was first allocated in 2000 through the end of 2001.

TABLE 5 CRISIS HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS

Categories	# of Projects	Committed Amount
Completed-Repair	29	\$465,755.00
Completed-Replacement	17	\$802,950.00
Total Completed	46	\$1,268,705.00
Bids Awarded-Repair	11	\$165,590.00
Notices of Eligibility Issued-Replacement	23	\$1,297,618.00
Total in Progress	34	\$1,463,208.00
Total Completed and in Progress	80	\$2,731,913.00
Total Deemed Ineligible	14	

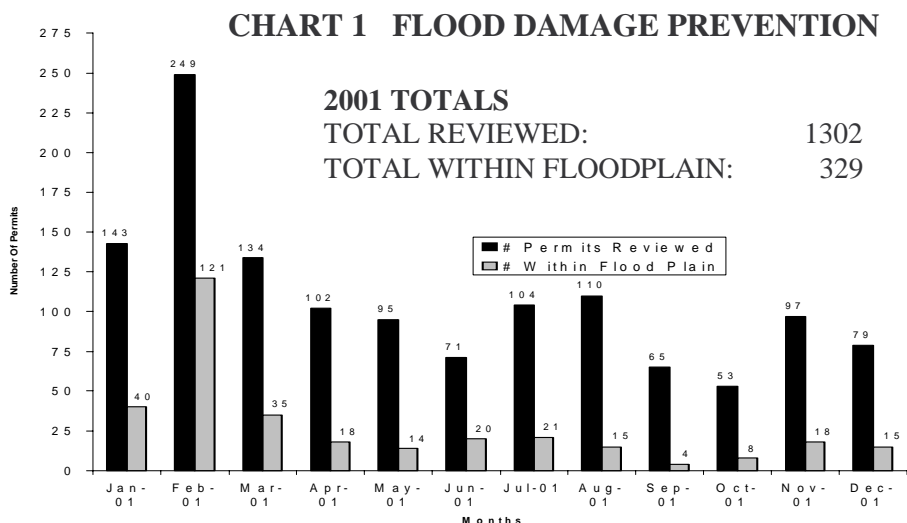
FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION

As evidenced by the significant flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, numerous properties within Pitt County are located in flood prone areas. Because of this, many property owners carry flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that all jurisdictions participating in the National Flood Insurance Program administer a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Through the use of this ordinance, Pitt County strives to:

- 1) Protect human life and health,
- 2) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects,
- 3) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public,
- 4) Minimize prolonged business interruptions,
- 5) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in floodplains,
- 6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of floodprone areas in such a manner as to minimize flood blight areas, and
- 7) Insure that potential home buyers are notified that property is in a flood area.

The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was adopted by the County Commissioners on August 18, 1980 and is administered by the Pitt County Planning Department. However, the County saw the need to amend parts of the Ordinance in 2001 in response to issues resulting from the flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd. One major change to the Ordinance was the requirement that the bottom floor be raised to two (2) feet above base flood elevation. The revisions were drafted by Pitt County staff and adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 16, 2001, with an effective date of July 1, 2001.

Pitt County Planning staff includes a Certified Floodplain Manager who, along with his responsibilities of administering the Ordinance, reviews all septic system permits to determine the floodplain designation. **Chart 1** shows the number of permits reviewed each month during 2001 and those permits for properties located within the 100-year floodplain.



SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

In 1973, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted the Sedimentation Pollution Act, which required land-disturbing activities to comply with certain erosion and sediment control guidelines. Pitt County has administered its own local Erosion and Sediment Control Program since 1974. The Pitt County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance regulates certain land-disturbing activities to control accelerated erosion and sedimentation in order to prevent the pollution of water and other damage to lakes, watercourses, and other public and private property.

In 2001, Pitt County's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program won the *Local Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program Award for Outstanding Local Programs*, which is sponsored by the NC Sedimentation Control Commission. This award identifies the County's program as being exemplary in the state. Pitt County Planning Department is also pleased to have on staff a Certified Professional In Soil Erosion and Sediment Control who administers the program.

Land disturbances of one (1) acre or more require the submittal, review and approval of a soil erosion and sediment control plan. These plans are submitted to the Pitt County Planning Department to ensure compliance with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. In addition, Planning staff makes numerous site inspections to ensure continued compliance with the regulations. **Table 6** below provides more detail in the number of plans reviewed, sites inspected, Notices of Violations issued, and the amount of disturbed acreage during 2001.

TABLE 6 LOCAL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM

Sediment Control Projects	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Plan Reviews	4	4	-	2	3	7	2	1	5	3	2	-	33
Site Inspections	36	30	35	43	39	44	43	37	36	30	31	30	440
Notices of Violations Issued	2	3	2	5	3	1	2	5	4	1	2	-	25
Total Disturbed Area (Acres)	37	19	-	55	65	76	3	4	25	8	8	-	300

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee

The Pitt County Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee was organized in January 2001. Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, this Committee consisted of eleven (11) members representing interested landowners, developers, local government officials, the Pitt County Planning Board, and other various state and federal agencies. The committee was established to assess current drainage problems and propose methods for financing and performing necessary drainage improvements. In addition, the committee researched effective methods for maintaining drainage ditches and other waterways. After holding several meetings, the committee determined that a major contributor to drainage problems was the ever increasing beaver population. Therefore, beaver maintenance became the committee's focus through the last half of 2001.

Beaver Management Assistance Program

Pitt County Planning staff with assistance from the Pitt County Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee researched beaver activity and associated damage control techniques. Staff also participated in numerous beaver management excursions with professional beaver trappers. After much research by the Committee, a draft Beaver Management Report was developed. The report included recommendations to contract with the US Department of Agriculture for an expanded Beaver Management Assistance Program for a six-month period (January 2002 through June 2002). It also recommended the establishment of an oversight committee to direct employees' efforts to areas of most critical need. On November 5, 2001, the Board of Commissioners approved the establishment of the expanded program and contracted with the US Department of Agriculture to provide beaver trapping services for the first half of 2002.

Debris Removal and Streambank Stabilization

The Debris Removal (Snagging) project began in 2000 in response to the increased storm-related debris within the County's tributaries and continued through the first half of 2001. Project funding was provided by the N.C. Emergency Watershed Protection Program, while Planning staff and the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided technical assistance and oversight of fieldwork. On January 11, 2001, the Tar River drainage snagging project began, followed by the Neuse River drainage project in March. The Tar River and Neuse River projects were the final snagging projects scheduled for the County. Overall, debris was removed from a total of 55 miles of drainageways.

In addition to the Debris Removal Project, the County provided technical assistance for six Streambank Stabilization projects. These projects reinforced streambanks that were damaged or weakened by storm-water or severe erosion. The streambanks were stabilized to prevent further erosion of existing slopes.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Pitt County received a scattered site Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 1999 for the rehabilitation or replacement of ten (10) homes owned by low-moderate income households and located within the County's planning jurisdiction. Work continued throughout 2001 with the completion of one (1) relocation and four (4) rehabilitations. The remaining five (5) projects are well underway as demonstrated in **Table 7**.

In addition to the CDBG-funded homes, Pitt County is funding two (2) rehabilitation projects through HOME funds. The Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program was created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to assist counties and towns in the rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing for low-income residents. The Pitt County Consortium was formed in late 1997 in order to become an eligible recipient of HOME funds. Participants of the Consortium include Pitt County, City of Greenville, Town of Ayden, Town of Bethel, Town of Farmville, Town of Grifton, and Town of Winterville. HOME funds received for rehabilitation include \$55,600. **Table 7** also describes the status of HOME projects.

TABLE 7 HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS

FUND	Property Address	Type of Work	Repair Cost	Start Date	Est. Complete Date	Comments
CDBG	1029 US 64 W, Bethel	Demo/ Reloc			08/01/01	Complete
CDBG	182 Pug Moore Rd, Bethel	Demo/ Reloc			3/15/02	New manufactured home selected.
CDBG	599 2 nd St, Pactolus Bethel	Rehab	\$26,019	1/21/02	2/28/02	Under construction
CDBG	376 Black Jack Rd, Simpson	Rehab	\$29,985	9/14/01	12/20/01	Complete
CDBG	4706 Peyton Ln, Grimesland	Rehab	\$26,575	5/22/01	10/20/01	Complete
CDBG	4912 Boyds Rd, Grimesland	Rehab	\$28,188	5/17/01	07/22/01	Complete
CDBG	4496 Hollowell Rd, Greenville	Rehab	\$22,750	2/1/02	3/15/02	Under construction
CDBG	1105 Bridge Rd, Grimesland	Rehab	\$22,825	2/1/02	3/15/02	Under construction
CDBG	1479 Davenport Farm Rd, Greenville	Rehab	\$29,608	2/1/02	3/15/02	Under construction
CDBG	2222 Mazingo Rd, Greenville	Rehab	\$39,585	9/14/01	12/20/01	Complete
HOME	3329 Johnson St, Falkland	Rehab				Title work complete. Will be in next bid package.
HOME	1323 Idlewild Dr, Greenville	Rehab				Title work complete. Will be in next bid package.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

E-911 Addressing

Planning staff continued to update and maintain the E-911 addressing database for the County throughout 2001. In addition to maintenance of the County's addressing database, the Planning Department also maintains numerous municipal databases (See **Table 1**). As a daily responsibility, Planning staff responds to numerous addressing inquiries throughout the county and continually assigns addresses for new structures.

As part of the E-911 Addressing Program, Pitt County Planning Department's Road Sign Coordinator maintains nearly 3,500 County street signs, and assembled and installed approximately 90 new signs in 2001. The Road Sign Coordinator also fabricates and refurbishes existing signs throughout Pitt County's jurisdiction.

On April 10, 2001, the Town of Grifton contracted with Pitt County for the purpose of improving emergency (E-911) response through the conversion of existing municipal addresses to Pitt County's addressing system. Planning staff, as part of the initial stage of the Grifton address conversion, conducted a windshield survey of all addressable structures within the Town. Information collected on the structures and roads was added to the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) to assist with E-911 address assignments.

GIS Mapping

The Pitt County Planning Department utilizes a modernized Geographic Information System (GIS) to create detailed digital and hardcopy maps. Two GIS programs, ArcView and ArcInfo, provide the Planning Department with the ability to create, maintain, and display maps in various formats. With the department's printing abilities through the use of a plotter, large and high-quality color maps can be printed in a short amount of time.

Pitt County produces numerous maps for multiple presentations. These maps can be displayed in paper or digital format. In addition, Planning creates numerous maps for reference, public review, and special projects. Examples include: existing and proposed infrastructure, municipal planning jurisdictions, existing land uses, census information, hydrology, floodplains, and sheriff patrol areas. With this mapping capability, Pitt County Planning Department provides mapping and analysis assistance to various entities.

OTHER PLANNING PROJECT PARTICIPATION

Transportation Planning

Planning Staff members were involved with various transportation planning efforts during 2001. First, staff continued to serve on the Technical Coordinating Committee for the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Committee developed a prioritized list of transportation improvements for the 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Greenville, Winterville, and parts of unincorporated Pitt County. Likewise, Planning staff developed a priority listing for unincorporated Pitt County. The top priority for the MPO and the County is the NC 11 Southwest Bypass. The North Carolina Department of Transportation considers the priorities listed in the TIP when allocating funds. During 2001, the Technical Coordinating Committee also reviewed the alternatives for the Southwest Bypass and developed a recommendation for the Board of Transportation.

Redistricting of Election Districts

With the availability of the Census 2000 figures, Pitt County determined that it was necessary to revise the election districts for the County Commissioners and Board of Education. New district boundaries were necessary to balance the 2000 Census population among the six election districts. Planning staff analyzed the census data and generated several map options. Two of the options were mapped and presented to the County Commissioners for review. After holding a public meeting and hearing on August 14th, the Commissioners and Board of Education approved the plan to realign districts for the 2002 elections. The U.S. Department of Justice approved the plan in December.

Coordinated Permitting

During 2000, Planning staff members participated in the County's Coordinated Permitting Group. The group researched and provided recommendations on a coordinated permitting process that provides better and faster public service, and facilitates data sharing among permitting agencies. Planning staff continued to participate in the County's Coordinated Permitting effort throughout 2001. Site visits were conducted to jurisdictions currently using or developing a coordinated permitting system. After observing several software demonstrations, the group chose an appropriate software package to best serve the County's permitting needs. The permitting system should be operational by the middle of 2002.

STAFF ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2001, Planning staff members made presentations on various planning-related activities, received training to better advise and serve the public, and represented the County on numerous committees. Listed below are examples of these activities.

Presentations

Eastern NC Manufactured Housing Meeting - Northwest Planning Area
Town of Grifton - Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
Town of Grifton – E-911 Addressing
Rotary Club – Land Use Planning and Regulatory Activities

Training/Conference Attendance

Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Local Programs Workshop
Stream Restoration Workshop
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Seminar
NC Geographic Information Systems Conference
2001 Environmental Conference
Annual American Planning Association Conference
ArcGIS Training
Effective Zoning Administration Techniques Workshop
Governors Hurricane Conference
Watershed Workshop
NC American Planning Association (APA) Conference
Recovery in the Coastal Plains Conference
LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Seminar
Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Training
NC Association of Zoning Officials Conference
National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies Conference
Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop

Committee Representation/Staff Support

Coordinated Permitting Committee
Coastal Carolina Trail Committee
HOME Consortium
Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Committee
Greenville Urban Area Bicycle Task Force Steering Committee
GIS Steering Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
Safe Communities Coalition's CRASH Task Force
Governor's Advisory Council on Flood Recovery Efforts
Unmet Needs Committee
Pitt County Safety Committee

Pitt County Planning Department
2001 Annual Report

PITT COUNTY PLANNING IN 2002

The Pitt County Planning Department saw many changes during 2001 including the administration of a new Zoning Ordinance, the creation of a Beaver Management Program, and the expansion of the addressing, soil erosion control and flood damage prevention programs. In addition, Planning staff provided existing services and administered existing programs in a more efficient manner. During the upcoming year, Pitt County Planning staff plans to continue these efforts. Listed below are some of the department's projects and activities planned for the year 2002.

Major Projects & Activities

Flood Recovery Efforts
Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
Countywide Zoning Ordinance
Coordinated Permitting System
Rural Transportation Planning Organization
Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee
Municipal Address Conversion
Stormwater Regulations

Ongoing Staff Activities

Development Review
Zoning Administration
Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control
Flood Damage Prevention Administration
Community Development Block Grant/HOME
GIS Coverage Update/Map Production
Road Sign Assembly, Installation & Maintenance

Other Potential Projects

Prepare Clean Water Trust Fund Grant Application
Revise Multifamily Development Ordinance
Revise Outdoor Advertising Sign Ordinance
Develop Elevation Certificate/Reference Mark Database
Establish Local Stream Identification Program