



Pitt County
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Zoning Ordinance Amendments in 2012

The 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan includes several goals and objectives designed to improve community health. One such goal is to improve access to healthy foods by promoting the production of, access to, and consumption of locally-produced foods. In 2012, the Pitt County Zoning Ordinance was amended to allow outdoor fruit and vegetable markets (i.e. "farmers' markets") within the Low Density Residential (R40) zoning district. Permitting farmers' markets within the R40 district serves to accomplish the Plan's goal by increasing access to healthy and locally grown fruits and vegetables for residents within these areas of the County.



2012 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

Pitt County Planning Staff

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Construction and Maintenance of New Subdivision Streets

Over the past few years, the Pitt County Planning Department has received an increasing number of complaints regarding the condition of subdivision streets located in the County's planning jurisdiction. Typically, these roads are intended for long term maintenance by NCDOT, but the original land developer has not petitioned the agency to assume maintenance responsibility. In older subdivisions, this has led to road maintenance problems. In the spring 2012, Planning Staff identified the need to conduct an assessment of unadopted streets and consider update of the Subdivision Ordinance to address street maintenance issues.

In December 2012, the Board of Commissioners amended the Subdivision Ordinance to explicitly state a developer's responsibility for construction and maintenance of new subdivision streets until accepted by NCDOT for maintenance. The amendments also included specific examples of maintenance violations. Planning Staff is currently exploring options to help citizens that live in subdivisions with roads in poor condition and how to prevent street maintenance issues in the future.



Our Journey Home: The 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness is a community-wide initiative to greatly reduce the incidence of homelessness and eliminate chronic homelessness in Pitt County within 10 years. From the 2012 housing needs assessment conducted in January 2012, we determined that there were approximately 106 people were homeless on any given night in Pitt County, down from 114 people in 2011.

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, the second Project Homeless Connect Event took place at the Greenville Convention Center. Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event to serve people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in Pitt County.

Two hundred and seventy nine (279) guests attended this one day event and had access to a menu of 48 services from 10 service categories provided by 39 different agencies/programs. Service providers were assisted by approximately 204 volunteers. Breakfast and lunch were provided for nearly 550 people with food donated by 33 business and churches. Of special interest, a full-scale dental clinic was provided by the ECU School of Dental Medicine serving approximately 100 guests with an array of dental care, including screenings, X-rays, and extractions.

In August 2012, the 10-Year Plan received funding to establish a Rapid Re-housing program in Pitt County. This is a joint effort with Greenville Community Shelter and the Center for Family Violence Prevention. This program is expected to begin in January 2013 and serve 35 homeless individuals and families in Pitt County.

Community Development

In 2012, Pitt County completed its 19th replacement home through a volunteer-based housing initiative with Grifton Mission Ministries and our second with College Park Baptist Church from Winston Salem, North Carolina. This replacement home was made possible through volunteer labor and donated resources provided by the two groups, paired with financing from Select Bank & Trust and assistance from the Town of Winterville and Pitt County. Under the leadership of Billy Tarlton, Grifton Mission Ministries is an independent, inter-faith, non-profit organization helping economically disadvantaged families with critical home repairs. Grifton Mission Ministries served as the general contractor, and partnered with College Park Baptist Church to provide construction materials and skilled labor to construct a new home located at 205 North Street in Winterville. Pitt County also received funding under the North Carolina Finance Agency's Single Family Rehabilitation Program to serve homeowners over the age of 62. Three households were served using these funds. Also, Urgent Repair Program funds were used to address urgent housing needs. Three households were served through the Urgent Repair Program.



Upper Swift Creek And Fork Swamp Watersheds

In 2010, Pitt County and project partners were awarded \$167,300 in grant monies from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) as part of a \$214,300 watershed management initiative in the upper Swift Creek watershed.

Recent development in Greenville, Winterville, Ayden, and portions of Pitt County has impacted Swift Creek and its main tributary, Fork Swamp. Aging infrastructure, in addition to land use changes caused new development, has resulted in stormwater problems that contribute to the degradation of water quality and habitat in these streams. The project partners propose to address these problems now, when cost-effective solutions can be implemented to reduce the likelihood of future water quality degradation. This project consisted of four goals: characterize long-term water quality through benthic macroinvertebrate community monitoring; target areas for riparian protection and stream enhancement; identify storm-water conveyance problem areas; and identify and prioritize stormwater best management practices (BMPs) within the project area.

This project was completed in October 2012. Partners are now investigating funding possibilities to carry out initiatives cited in the study.



Buyout Property Lease Program

After the flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, Pitt County acquired 105 properties totaling 288 acres. To adequately maintain those properties, the County established a lease program where by interested citizens may lease county-owned property and maintain the land as stipulated by the federal, state and local governments. The lease program established a 10-year lease term at a cost of ten dollars (\$10.00). In 2012, several of the original leases expired and the Planning Department is working with the current lessees and/or adjacent property owners to renew the leases and maintenance agreements.



Community Garden & County Home Crosswalk

This year marked the first year for the Making Pitt Fit Community Garden. Staff continues to serve on the Community Garden Advisory Committee along with representatives from the Cooperative Extension, Pitt County Health Department, Pitt County Engineering and Recreation; Council on Aging; Master Gardeners; and Soil and Water Conservation. The project began in 2010 with grant monies from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation. These monies were put to good use providing citizens with the opportunity to grow their own vegetables, thereby encouraging them to increase physical activity and make healthy eating choices. The garden, being strategically located adjacent to the Alice F. Keene District Park and the Pitt County Farmers' Market, has seen much foot traffic across County Home Road. Additional funds and in-kind labor were leveraged to build a state of the art crosswalk across County Home Road, affording safe passage from areas such as the Pitt County Farmers' Market, the Village of Yesteryear, the Pitt County Animal Control Offices and Wintergreen Schools over to the Community Garden and District Park. This crosswalk has safely connected eight major amenities in the Pitt County Complex for the health and well-being of citizens of all ages. The crosswalk project is serving as a model for the implementation of the new NC Department of Transportation Complete Streets Policy and being shared in workshops for NCDOT. In December 2012, Planning Staff designed and installed signage for the Making Pitt Fit Community Garden and Alice F. Keene District Park.



E-911 Addressing

Planning Staff continues to enforce the County's addressing ordinance through the ESAVE (E-911 System Address Verification & Enforcement) project. Address numbers are required to be posted on every addressable structure. This year, 147 addresses have been assigned, including the addresses on the Pitt Community College Campus. As part of the addressing program, staff maintained nearly 2500 County street signs, and removed 6 illegal street signs.

GIS Day & Geography Awareness Week



Planning Staff presented County maps and other GIS materials to approximately 80 first grade students at H.B. Sugg's in Farmville and 25 kindergarten students at Creekside Elementary in Winterville.

Website Planning Department Website Statistics

Average Monthly Visitors:
31,952
Average Daily Visitors:
1,046

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