



2014 Student Interns

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Wedding and Event Facilities Amendment made to Pitt County Zoning Ordinance

The Pitt County Planning Department presented a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to the Pitt County Planning Board and Board of County Commissioners after receiving a petition from a Pitt County resident requesting that wedding and event facilities be permitted in residential zoning districts. The amendment which was made effective immediately following the November 17, 2014, Board of County Commissioners' meeting requires conditional use permits along with other development standards for this use if the wedding/event facility will be located in a residential zoning district. The screening and setback requirements in the adopted development standards will minimize conflicts between incompatible land uses. Citizen interest and demand for this type of land use and service have increased in recent years and this amendment will help insure that everyone's interests are considered as this land use increases in popularity. For details regarding this amendment please refer to the Pitt County Zoning Ordinance at www.pittcountync.gov/bcc/ordinance/planning/14.pdf



Building Codes Enforcement Ordinance Update

The Pitt County Planning Department, in coordination with Pitt County Building Inspections, Permitting Center, and Legal Staff, proposed amendments to the Pitt County Building Codes Enforcement Ordinance to comply with North Carolina Law and established procedures in the Pitt County Inspections Department and Permitting Center. Some specific edits that were made include:

- Requiring appointment of a lien agent in accordance with North Carolina Law;
- Requiring Inspectors to verify required building setbacks;
- Issuing certificates of occupancy for all buildings being permitted, including manufactured housing; and
- Requiring contractors to keep a set of plans along with the building permit card on construction sites until final inspections have been completed.

After the public hearing at the November 17, 2014, Board of County Commissioners meeting, these amendments, along with others, were made effective on January 1, 2015. View the updated ordinance at:

<http://www.pittcountync.gov/bcc/ordinance/planning/3.pdf>



2014 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

Pitt County Planning Staff

James Rhodes, AICP
Planning Director

Tabitha Auten, Office Manager

Jonas Hill
Planner III
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Community Development

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Planner III
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Jeff Coston
Road Sign Coordinator

Paulette White, Manager
10-Year Plan Project

Deloris Farmer
Housing Coordinator

Alice Keene
Special Projects Coordinator

Linda Mandell
SOAR Caseworker



Alice F. Keene Comprehensive Recreation and Park Master Plan Update

Through the leadership of Community Schools and Recreation and the Planning and Development Departments, Pitt County initiated an effort to update the Pitt County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan. A grant from the Region 10 Community Transformation Grant Project (CTG) enabled the County to work with East Carolina University in updating the plan. Pitt County was awarded a grant through the "active living" category of the CTG Project. In 2014, a statistically-based telephone survey designed to determine parks and recreation needs, and levels of interest and participation of citizens across the county was conducted by the Center for Survey Research at East Carolina University. The specially-

trained interviewers called randomly selected citizens over a period of six weeks.

Using data from the Recreation Master Plan, Derek Williams, Division Manager from Alfred Benesch & Company, began the update of the site plan for the Alice F. Keene District Park. The first round of public forums was held in November. Citizens were invited to view draft site plans and comment during the public meeting. Priorities for park upgrades include adding a gymnasium, incorporating the existing greenhouse property and adding several new amenities, including pickle ball courts and a dog agility course. The site plan update will wrap up in early 2015.



Emergency Solutions Grant

Over the past two years, Pitt County has successfully administered the Rapid Re-Housing program which is funded through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). This program is designed to help those who are homeless transition into permanent housing.

The primary goal is to stabilize a program participant in permanent housing as quickly as possible and to provide wrap-around services after the family or individual obtains housing.

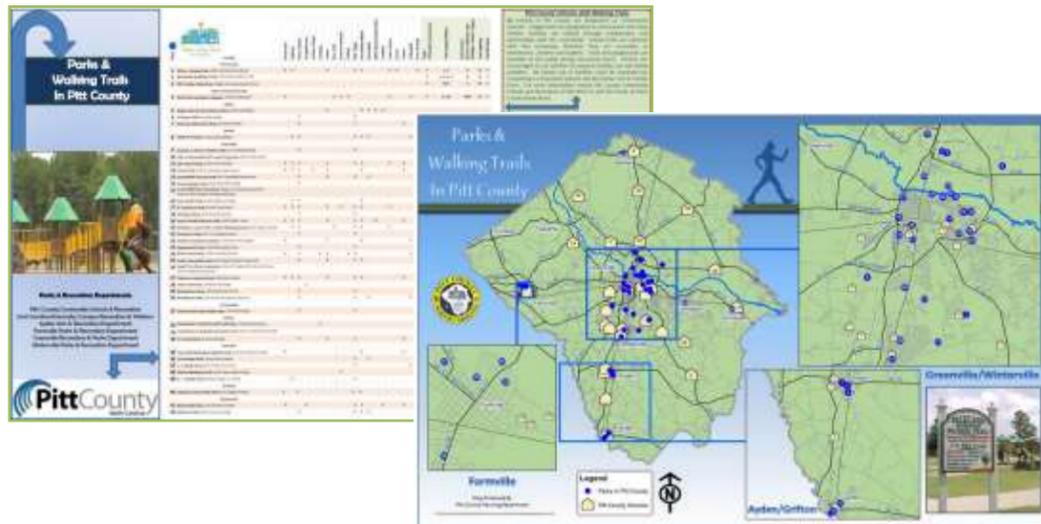
In 2014, Pitt County received \$24,702 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 15 households with short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or families.

Households receiving these funds must have an income level at or below 50% annual median income. Enrollment in the Rapid Re-Housing program relies heavily on a case management plan to ensure long-term stability for program participants. Staff has implemented a case management plan that will increase household incomes and/or increase access to mainstream benefits for program participants.

Neuse River Basin

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

In April of 2012, Pitt, Lenoir, Greene, Jones, and Wayne Counties applied for a grant with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) for the development of a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County has since been awarded a grant for the preparation of that plan, with Pitt County serving as the lead agency. This regional hazard mitigation plan will provide a dynamic planning document that identifies potential hazards and vulnerabilities, and recommends strategies to reduce short-term and long-term risks to life and property. The Planning Department has partnered with Holland Consulting Planners to develop the plan. The draft plan was submitted to NCEM for review, and all involved counties and municipalities should adopt the plan by July 2015. For more information, visit <http://www.neuseriverregionalhmp.org/>



A New Brochure for Parks & Walking Trails in Pitt County

Pitt County Planning Staff, along with ECU interns and school-aged volunteers, assisted Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation with the creation of the Parks and Walking Trails brochure. The 11"x17" full color brochure highlights the many parks and walking trails located within Pitt County. The brochure identifies the physical address of each park, along with the available amenities and specifics regarding parks with walking trails. In addition to the parks in Pitt County, all schools in Pitt County are designated as "Community Schools". The playgrounds, school trails and many of the facilities are available to the public for use during non-school hours. These schools are also featured in the new brochure, along with amenities and walking trail information. On the back side of the brochure, there is a full color map showing all the parks and schools located within Pitt County, along with inset maps of Farmville, the Ayden-Grifton area, and the Greenville-Winterville area. To view a copy of the brochure, visit:

http://www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning/recreation/walking_trails/documents/parks_trails_11x17brochure.pdf

Water Supply Watershed Regulations

Some of the creeks and streams in Pitt County flow directly into the Tar River, which supplies drinking water to many of the County's residents. By State law, those watersheds are under additional zoning and development regulations. Pitt County adopted its Water Supply Watershed Ordinance in late 1993, with an effective date of January 1, 1994. These regulations have since been incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance as an overlay district. Property in this area can still be developed according to underlying zoning. However, certain land uses are not allowed in Water Supply Watersheds. Also, the property must meet built-upon area requirements as described in the watershed protection standards. In Pitt County, these regulations apply to the watershed of the Tar River in the northwest portion of the County.

Land uses located in the protection area must comply with the requirements of the underlying zoning district. However, uses with processes or materials that may contain contaminated materials or soils are prohibited.

Regulations that apply to development within the Watershed Protection Overlay District fall into two categories. The first limits the amount of built upon area (BUA) and the second places a minimum buffer distance adjacent to the Tar River.

Built-upon area (also commonly referred to as impervious area) is the percentage of a development project covered by impervious or partially impervious materials. Rooftops, pavement, and gravel are examples of built-upon area found on development sites.

Vegetative buffers are the second driver that impacts development under the watershed protection regulations. A 100 foot buffer applies to all perennial streams located within the overlay boundary. Minimal impact is allowed to occur within these buffers.

In December 2014, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners voted to amend the Water Supply Watershed Overlay District to include a high density option. This option allows for more built-upon area on a site through the use of stormwater management techniques to mitigate the effects of the increased impervious surface and the resulting increased rainfall runoff. Historically, projects in Pitt County have been limited to 24% BUA (with curb and gutters) or 36% BUA (without curb and gutters), but with the implementation of the high density option the built upon area may go up to 70%. The amount of built-upon area allowed is determined by the level of engineered storm water controls proposed for the project.

For more information on the regulations, visit www.pittcountync.gov/bcc/ordinance/planning/14.pdf

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. In 2014, one County ESAVE area and three municipal areas, (Simpson, Bethel and Falkland) were inspected and a total of 1,648 structures were brought into compliance with the Addressing Ordinance. As part of the addressing program, staff maintain nearly 3000 County street signs. This year, 196 addresses have been assigned.



GIS Day & Geography Awareness Week

Planning Staff showcased a map gallery featuring maps from the current year. Members of planning and other departments attended. ESRI provided door prizes for the event and light refreshments were served.

Website



Planning Department
Website Statistics

Average Monthly Visitors:

47,814

Average Daily Visitors:

1,571