



### 2015 Student Interns

East Carolina University

Josh Laws  
Security Facilities Graduate Student

Jacob Twarog  
Geography Graduate Student

Damiere Powell  
Planning

Mikayla Ritchey  
Geography

Andrew Strong  
Planning

Eric Vitale  
Planning

Freddie Wyrsh  
Planning

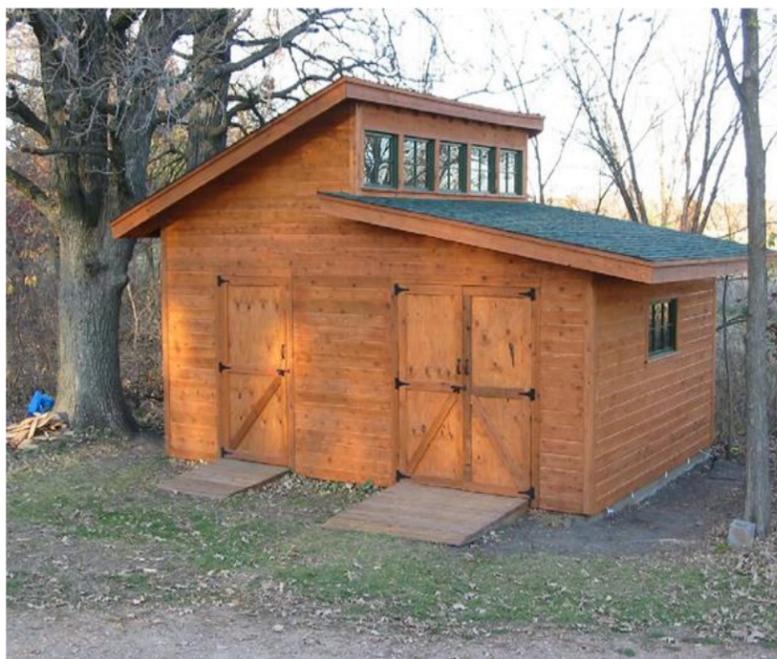
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Visit us on the web:

[www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning](http://www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning)

### Accessory Buildings Amendment made to Pitt County Zoning Ordinance

Many amendments to Pitt County's Zoning Ordinance, whether rezoning requests or text changes, were initiated in 2015 by Pitt County property owners. One request involved allowing Accessory Buildings on noncontiguous tracts of land. This amendment, while initiated by a Pitt County landowner, was also supported by Planning Staff due to the frequency of similar requests for this particular land use. The amendment was approved at the December 21, 2015, Board of County Commissioners' meeting. The change will benefit landowners who may want to better utilize some of their vacant property by constructing accessory buildings on those pieces of property even though they do not live on or next to that particular parcel of land. Staff included appropriate development conditions and size limits as a part of this amendment, so that neighboring property owners will be protected from any potentially negative effects. Also, four rezoning requests and five conditional use permits were considered by the Board of Commissioners in 2015.



### E-911 Addressing Enhancements

Planning staff, along with staff from Pitt County Management Information Systems, (MIS) have redesigned the current ESAVE software program that is used to track violations for address number display. The new version, called ESAVESync, features enhancements that will better facilitate the process of sending violation letters. In addition, the new software is formatted to better fit our tablet PC, making the screens easier to read and allowing staff to capture photos for documentation. The software is in testing phases currently and should be fully implemented in January 2016.

# 2015

## Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

### Pitt County Planning Staff

James Rhodes, AICP  
Planning Director

Tabitha Auten, Office Manager

Jonas Hill  
Planner III  
Environmental Planning  
Community Development

Eric Gooby, AICP, CZO  
Planner III  
Zoning Administration  
Coordinated Permitting

Eli Johnson, AICP, GISP  
Planner III  
GIS Mapping/E-911  
Addressing

Bryan Jones, CFM  
Planner II  
Environmental Planning  
Development Review

Tracy Cash, GISP  
Planner II  
GIS Mapping/E-911  
Addressing

Mark Nottingham, AICP, CZO  
Planner I  
Zoning Administration  
Coordinated Permitting  
Inspections

Chris Lawson  
Planning Technician  
Development Review  
Housing Rehabilitation

Jeff Coston  
Road Sign Coordinator

Deloris Farmer  
Housing Coordinator

Alice Keene  
Special Projects Coordinator

Linda Mandell  
SOAR Caseworker

Lynne James  
Community Development  
Assistant & 10-Year Homeless  
Plan Coordinator



### Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

On June 22, 2015, FEMA approved the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Pitt County, serving as the lead agency, was awarded a grant for the preparation of the plan in April of 2012. The Hazard Mitigation Plan involves a five-county region including Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pitt, and Wayne Counties, as well as the 26 municipalities within these counties. The regional plan provides 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. This plan will help protect Pitt County and the surrounding counties by reducing the risks from natural disasters by attaining the following goals:

- Promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of residents and minimize public

and private losses due to natural hazards;

- Reduce the risk and impact of future natural disasters by regulating development in known high hazard areas;
- Pursue funds to reduce the risk of natural hazards to existing developments where such hazards are clearly identified and the mitigation efforts are cost-effective;
- Effectively expedite post-disaster reconstruction;
- Provide education to citizens that empower them to protect themselves and their families from natural hazards;
- Protect fragile natural and scenic areas within the planning jurisdiction; and
- Improve upon regional emergency service provision and response.

[www.neuseriverregionalhmp.org](http://www.neuseriverregionalhmp.org)

## Emergency Solutions Grant

Over the past three 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 2015, Pitt County received \$50,062 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 33 households with short-and/or medium-term rental assistance, as necessary, to help homeless individuals 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.

## Adoption of the 2015 Comprehensive Recreation and Park Master Plan for Pitt County

On March 16, 2015, the Pitt County Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2015 Comprehensive Recreation and Park Master Plan. This plan was developed to provide an assessment of the current quantity and quality of the recreation and park facilities and services offered in the county. The plan serves to document Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation's achievements in the last decade, and serves as a guide for recreation and park development over the next ten years. One significant new component of the plan is the inclusion of "PCCSR's Impact on Health and Wellness for the Community". This section identifies numerous avenues through which collaborative partnerships make a positive impact on the health and wellness of citizens of all ages. Also critically important to the Plan was a statistically based survey reflecting the needs and interests of citizens across the county. Two important results of the survey revealed that 84% of the respondents agree that parks and recreation programs and facilities are critical to the quality of life in Pitt County; and an overwhelming majority (> 90%) supported the use of County funds for both new and/or renovated facilities, as well as new or existing programs for recreation and parks. The plan was updated through the strong support of Community Schools and Recreation and the Planning Department working in cooperation with the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department at East Carolina University.

## Adoption of the Alice Keene District Park Master Plan Park

On May 4, 2015, the Pitt County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Alice F. Keene District Park Master Plan. This plan was established by engaging citizens to determine county-wide needs that could be met by expanding facilities at the Park. The new Park Master Plan reflects the facilities county residents identified as top park priorities. In order to accommodate some of the highest priority items, Commissioners also incorporated approximately 20 additional acres into the Park. This includes the former Pitt Community Greenhouse area, along with additional property along Park's southern boundary to expand the community garden and to develop a natural walking trail.

## Parks & Walking Trails in Pitt County

In 2014, 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 brochure was brought to life on Pitt County's website in 2015. The new website features all of the parks and walking trails within Pitt County, organized by specific geographic areas of the County.

To learn more about Recreation in Pitt County visit us on the web at:

<http://www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning/recreation/recindex.shtml>

## Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing (CDBG-SSH) Grant

In 2012, Pitt County was awarded \$225,000 by the North Carolina Department of Commerce for participation in the Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing (CDBG-SSH) program to address housing needs of very low income families throughout the County, excluding the City of Greenville. After a review of the applications, three households were chosen by the CDBG-SSH selection committee to participate in the program. Staff deemed the structures belonging to the households to be sub-standard and in need of replacement. Unfortunately, one client passed away prior to work on the replacement home starting. The other two homes were successfully replaced in 2015 with comparable-sized homes. Pitt County contracted with Oakwood Homes of Greenville, after a competitive bid process, to provide new manufactured homes for the clients. The two households are very appreciative for the new homes provided through this program.



## Candlewick Area Sanitary Sewer Project

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly allocated Community Development Block Grant funds to the Infrastructure program for the construction of public water and sewer infrastructure to mitigate public and environmental health problems in areas with concentrations of low to moderate income households.

In August 2014, Pitt County was awarded a Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure (CDBG-I) grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 to provide sewer service in a portion of the Candlewick Area Sanitary District (CASD) and to several adjacent lots along Bunch Lane. The final grant contract, however, was delayed due to the negotiations among State agencies and was received by the County on May 20, 2015. Through the grant funds, sanitary sewer service will be provided to 48 households which are experiencing failing septic systems or have aging systems.

## 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 2015, three County ESAVE areas were inspected and a total of 1,551 structures were brought into compliance with the Addressing Ordinance. As part of the addressing program, staff maintain nearly 3000 County street signs. In 2015, 231 new addresses were assigned.

## GIS Day & Geography Awareness Week

Planning Staff presented maps to approximately 150 HB Sugg Elementary students. Students learned the major components of a map such as a map key/legend and compass/north arrow. The students participated in projects to illustrate how GIS software is used to make maps.

## Planning Department Website Statistics

Average Monthly Visitors:

65,440

Average Daily Visitors:

2,151