

# 2022 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

## Pitt County Planning Staff

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## Envision Pitt County 2045

Pitt County, in collaboration with the Greenville Urban Area MPO, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), is developing “Envision Pitt County 2045”, a new comprehensive land use plan that will guide future growth and development within the County. The new plan will replace the current “Pitt County 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan”, which was adopted in 2011.

In 2019, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, which modernized and reorganized the State’s planning and development regulations. This new legislation requires all local governments to adopt and reasonably maintain a comprehensive plan that sets forth goals, policies, and programs intended to guide the present and future physical, social, and economic development. Since the 2011 plan, the County has continued to experience significant growth, and has recently adopted land use plans for the Southwest Bypass and NC 43 South corridors. The new goals and recommendations that will be included in “Envision Pitt County 2045” will ensure that development decisions are consistent with the County’s current vision and priorities (next page).



## Emergency Solutions Grant

Since 2013, 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 provide wrap-around services after the family, or individual obtains housing.

In 2022, Pitt County utilized its annual allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 21 households with short- and/or medium-term rental assistance and utility assistance.

Households receiving these funds must have an income level at or below 50% of the 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.

## Envision Pitt County 2045 (continued)

The planning process began in January 2022, and is expected to continue through March 2023. Public engagement and input have been key to the development of the plan. A project website ([www.EnvisionPittCounty2045](http://www.EnvisionPittCounty2045)) was created to provide information about the plan, including resource materials, the project schedule, and upcoming public input meetings. In February 2022, a kickoff meeting was held with representatives of various County departments to provide input on development-related issues in the County, including future growth, economic development, community health, and public safety. In April 2022, meetings with selected stakeholders throughout the County were held at Alice F. Keene District Park, and a second stakeholder meeting was held virtually in June for those who could not attend the meeting in April. Four public input meetings were held in May and early June at D.H. Conley High School, Ayden-Grifton High School, Farmville Central High School, and North Pitt High School. These meetings gave members of the public an opportunity to provide input on future growth and development in the County. In early December, two additional public input meetings were held at Alice F. Keene District Park and North Pitt High School to allow the public to review the draft recommendations of the plan. A virtual presentation was made available on the project website for those who were unable to attend the meetings. Additionally, a public survey was available from April to June and received over 350 responses in total.

Throughout the process, the Pitt County Planning Board has served as the steering committee and has overseen development of the plan. The draft plan will be presented to the Planning Board in January 2023, and the Board will hold a public hearing in February to provide a recommendation to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, that will hold a subsequent public hearing in early Spring to consider final adoption of the plan.

## Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Hurricane Florence heavily affected portions of Pitt County in September of 2018. Due to the amount of damage and other logistical hurdles, hazard mitigation funding has been delayed longer than normal, despite the County's ongoing dialogue with state and federal agencies. Pitt County received the grant agreement and the requested funding for the Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in October. These funds will allow the County to acquire 16 properties that were damaged by the hurricane, and will remove these homes and their residents from flood-prone areas. Pitt County had originally opted into a state-centric model for project, but decided to withdraw after the state struggled to find contractors to complete the work. In late November, Planning Staff began reaching out to a variety of contractors in order to begin the acquisition process. After receiving acceptable responses for each request, Planning Staff drafted the contracts for the selected appraiser, surveyor, and legal firms. It is anticipated that this project will take two years to complete.

## Parks and Facilities App/SHIFT Conference

Planning and Public Health Staff presented the Parks and Facilities of Pitt County App at the SHIFT Conference in Fort Collins Colorado. Developed by students at the Pitt County Early College High School at Pitt Community College, the app will locate a park/facility in Pitt County with various amenities based on user query. The SHIFT conference is a national gathering of land managers, researchers, funders, educators, retailers, and conservationists, along with outdoor recreation, health, military, and nature therapy professionals who share experiences, evidence, and ideas for better linking of both humans and nature. The conference was designed to increase collaborations among professionals from public health, recreation, university research and planning to increase.



## New Recreation Facilities

This year marked the long-awaited kick-off for the Design Phase of the gymnasium in the Pitt County District Park. Funded by the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), staff moved forward in designing the gymnasium with required site development, utilities, parking, road ways, landscaping, etc. This gymnasium was part of the original plan developed for the Community Schools and Recreation Center in the late 1990's. The gymnasium in the District Park was the highest priority identified in the 2015 District Park Master Plan, and a high priority according to the statistically based survey in the 2015 Pitt County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Funding continued to be an important consideration for moving beyond the Design Phase for the project. Beginning with the first Public Input Sessions, residents encouraged the consideration of utilizing ARPA funds for the gymnasium project. This recommendation aligned with the County Commissioners' decision to use ARPA funds for larger transformational projects that will impact the quality of life for all people in Pitt County over the next 30-50 years. During their meeting on August 22, 2022, Commissioners heard a presentation and discussed avenues for also including a request from residents living north of the Tar River for a gymnasium/community center. Following much discussion and special consideration, the County Commissioners voted unanimously to move forward with two gymnasiums/community centers and obligated \$10 Million in ARPA funding. Constructing Twin Centers for North and South of the river is a significant step forward for equity in recreation in Pitt County. The Board also approved moving forward with the design of the second recreation gymnasium/community center in the County Office Park. Staff was directed to develop and implement a plan for securing public input from residents and stakeholders north of the river to assist with the design of the center and the site plan for adjacent outdoor recreation space. This plan will be similar to the successful process used with the District Park.



Artistic Rendering of Proposed Gymnasium  
at Alice F. Keene District Park



## 2021 Student Interns

East Carolina University

**Millicent Ott**

Community & Regional  
Planning and Geography

**Kendall Daniels**

Community & Regional  
Planning

**Tanner Everett**

Community & Regional  
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**Love Ott**

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## Contact Us

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**Visit us on the  
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[www.pittcountync.gov/  
planning](http://www.pittcountync.gov/planning)

## Pitt County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Pitt County, in collaboration with the Transportation Planning Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Mid-East Rural Planning Organization, is developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the County. A Comprehensive Transportation Plan is a long-range planning document that will assist in making transportation decisions for the next 25-30 years. A Steering Committee was formed in September 2020 to guide development of the plan and is comprised of representatives from the County and municipalities, local transportation organizations, NCDOT staff, and other stakeholders. The Steering Committee meets monthly to provide updates and input on the plan. In 2021, public input on transportation needs was gathered through a public survey and the committee developed goals based on information provided.

In August and September 2022, Steering Committee members completed elected official outreach and made presentations to all Town Boards in the County, the Pitt County Planning Board, Pitt County Board of Commissioners and Greenville MPO TAC. This outreach provided an update on the plan and gave elected officials an opportunity to provide comments on the draft document.

Public information sessions were held on November 14, 2022 at the Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation Building and November 17, 2022, at North Pitt High School. NCDOT staff was available to review the draft maps with citizens and answer any questions. Comment cards were available for citizens to provide feedback on the draft maps. Additionally, a virtual information session was recorded and made available on YouTube (approximately 150 views as of December 12, 2022) and comments could be submitted on the project website.

The next steps that are projected to be completed by Summer 2023 include: Steering Committee review of comments submitted at public information sessions and on project website; creation of a visual CTP document by the NCDOT Communications Office; Steering Committee review of draft CTP document; public hearings and local adoptions by Pitt County and municipalities; Board of Transportation adoption; and distribution of the final CTP document.

