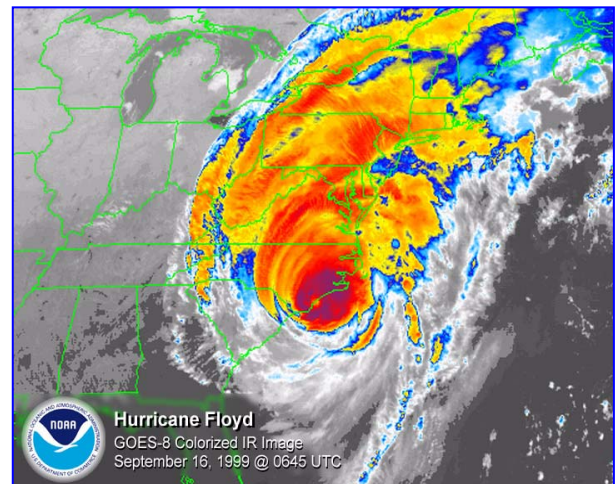


Pitt County Flood Recovery Final Report



Following the flood devastation associated with Hurricane Floyd, Pitt County undertook many activities to help citizens' lives return to normal, to repair damaged facilities and improvements, and to prepare for future hazards. This report provides a summary of the County's accomplishments in "building Pitt County back better." This report highlights work completed in housing recovery programs, environmental projects, and planning efforts.

Storm History - Hurricane Floyd made landfall at Cape Fear, NC early on the morning of September 16, 1999. The storm dumped 20+ inches of rain on eastern North Carolina causing widespread and devastating flooding. This flooding was compounded by the 10+ inches of rain left by Hurricane Dennis the previous week. Hurricane Floyd impacted 44 counties in North Carolina and destroyed over 8,000 homes. It caused an estimated \$6 billion in total damages.

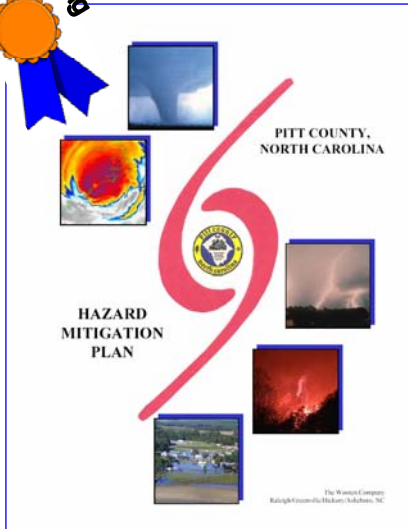


Pitt County was one of the hardest hit areas. Some portions of Pitt County were under water for more than two weeks. According to real property losses reported by the Pitt County Finance Office, over 4,300 structures were damaged countywide. The total damage value to real property, personal property, vehicles, infrastructure, and agricultural enterprises was estimated to be \$346,000,000.

Housing Recovery Strategy - In April 2000, the Board of County Commissioners appointed the Pitt County Community Task Force to develop a Housing Recovery Strategy following the flood event. The task force consisted of members of local government, faith-based organizations, and flood survivors. Planning Department staff members were involved with compiling, developing and recommending a draft Housing Recovery Strategy. The strategy was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on June 19, 2000, and outlined steps to assist county flood victims with various housing needs.



Pitt County Recovery Operations Center



Hazard Mitigation Plan - Preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan began in January 2000 when The Wooten Company, a local consulting firm, was hired to provide assistance with plan development. Pitt County developed the Hazard Mitigation Plan for two primary reasons. First, the devastating impact of Hurricane Floyd on Pitt County in September 1999 brought the issue of hazard mitigation planning to the forefront as a prudent course of action to reduce the impact of future disasters. Second, the County's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program required preparation of a local hazard mitigation plan. In January

2000, the first report to the Planning Board concerning the plan was made. Work continued on the Hazard Mitigation Plan throughout the year with the final draft presented to the Planning Board in September. After a public comment period, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted the Hazard Mitigation Plan on December 18, 2000. Planning staff applied for and received nearly \$25,000 through a Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant from the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management to assist with plan development. Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to communities undertaking hazard mitigation planning activities. The grant represented a 75% share of the total cost with the county contributing the remaining 25% with in-kind services.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Buyout) -

Pitt County was awarded \$16.9 million to acquire and demolish 202 flood damaged residential structures as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), otherwise known as the “buyout” program. Participation in the program was voluntary. Properties that were included in the program were purchased in fee simple and placed in public ownership, thereby reducing or eliminating the potential for inappropriate floodplain development. Property owners were paid pre-disaster fair market value for their properties. In total, Pitt County acquired 124 properties totaling 288 acres and expended nearly \$9 million.



Buyout Project	Closed	Pending	Withdrawn	Totals	Project Status
Phase I (HMGP)	24	-	7	31	Project Closed
Phase I (Supp.)	89	-	60	149	Project Closed
Phase II	5	-	6	11	Project Closed
Phase III	1	-	2	3	Project Closed
Phase IV	5	-	3	8	Project Closed
Totals	124	-	78	202	

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 provided homeowners with the price differential between the pre-flood fair market value of the home being purchased under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and a comparable replacement home. In total, 52 payments were made for a total of \$1,035,022. The final payment was made on July 16, 2003.



Demolition - Funding was also made available to Pitt County to assist in the demolition of structures on properties acquired through the Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program. All properties acquired were cleared of all structures and are to be left in a natural state. A total of 124 structures were demolished. The County also assisted the City of Greenville and Town of Grifton with administration of demolition activities.

Buyout Property Leasing - Given the amount of properties owned by Pitt County through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, concern arose over the amount of maintenance needed for the properties. The 288 acquired acres in Pitt County are to be left as open space. In an effort to reduce maintenance costs, the Commissioners agreed to offer the properties to interested citizens for their personal use. Through this program, the property would remain in the ownership of Pitt County as required by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, but would be leased for acceptable uses and maintenance. The leasing program allows individuals to lease county property for one dollar per year. The lessee can use the property for personal use as long as no permanent structure is erected on-site and other federal provisions are met.



As of December 3, 2003, 40 properties have been leased accounting for 113 of the 288 acres acquired. Additionally, five properties have been deeded to municipalities for upkeep.

Crisis Housing Assistance - As a result of the Hurricane Floyd flood event, the General Assembly authorized Crisis Housing Assistance Funds as a part of its overall recovery strategy. In Pitt County, this money was made available through the Repair and Replacement Programs. Pitt County was awarded \$2,893,297 to assist 87 applicants in the Repair program and another \$6,880,000 to assist 102 applicants in the Replacement program for a total of \$9,772,397 to assist 189 applicants.

CHAF Project	Closed	Ineligible	Withdrawn	Totals	Project Status
Repair	40	46	1	87	Project Closed
Replace	66	28	8	102	Project Closed
Totals	106	74	9	189	

Pitt County repaired 40 homes at an average cost of \$21,279 for a total of \$851,177 and replaced 66 homes at an average cost of \$54,607 for a total of \$3,604,029. The overall total of funds expended for the repair and replacement programs was \$4,455,206. These programs helped to address flood-related housing needs throughout unincorporated Pitt County for low-moderate income households which did not qualify for the buyout program.

Pitt County completed its recovery programs on July 16, 2003. In following the recovery strategies adopted by the Board of Commissioners, 230 households affected by the flood received federal and/or state funds totaling over \$14 million through housing-related programs. Pitt County has also taken measures to mitigate potential flood losses by following the strategies and goals set forth in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.