

Community Policy Profile



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August 27, 2024



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INTRODUCTION

This Community Policy Profile reviews and summarizes plans, assessments, studies, and other important documents whose guidance can help inform the Imagine Pender 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. For more information about the plan, please see the Pender County Planning & Community Development website:

<https://nc-pendercounty.civicplus.com/537/Imagine-Pender-2050-Comprehensive-Plan>

This document is organized into seven sections:

1. Hazard Mitigation and Environment
2. Housing
3. Land Use
4. Parks and Recreation
5. Public Health
6. Regional Planning
7. Transportation

The report contains brief descriptions and summaries of each of these documents and highlights the key policy topics addressed in the reports. The documents included in this report are listed below.

Documents Included in the Community Policy Profile

Hazard Mitigation and Environment

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
North Carolina Highway 210 Resiliency Analysis: Hydraulic Modeling and Analysis Report	2023	Pender County
Climate Change and Natural Hazards Vulnerability Assessment for the Cape Fear Region	2022	Cape Fear Region
Climate Resilience Projects for the Cape Fear Region	2022	Cape Fear Region

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	2021	Pender County
Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan	2021	Southeastern North Carolina- Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender Counties
Smart Yards: Simple Do-It-Yourself Solutions for Stormwater Pollution and Shoreline Erosion	2017	North Carolina

Housing

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program- Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspection Checklist	2023	Unspecified
Housing Needs Assessment	2012	Pender County

Land Use

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Pender County UDO	2010, amended 2024	Pender County
Pender 2.0 Comprehensive Land Use Plan	2018	Pender County
Maple Hill Small Area Plan	2014	Pender County
Currie Small Area Plan	2012	Pender County

Parks and Recreation

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Pender County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2022-2032	2022	Pender County

Public Health

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2022 Report	2022	Pender County
Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2018 Report	2018	Pender County
Health & Wellness Gap Analysis: Regional Assessment of Health Disparities	2014	Cape Fear Region

Regional Planning

DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
FOCUS: Framework for Our Future	2015	Cape Fear Region
Equitable Growth Profile of the Cape Fear Region	2015	Cape Fear Region
Catalysts Project and Complete Communities Report	2014	Cape Fear Region
Cape Fear Alternative Futures	2014	Cape Fear Region

Transportation

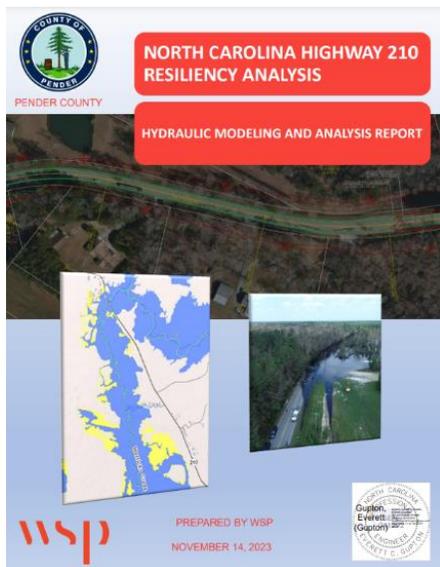
DOCUMENT	DATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA
Pender County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan	2023	Pender County
NC 210 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study	2023	Cape Fear
Pender County Streets Plan 2021	2021	Pender County
Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045: Metropolitan Transportation Plan	2020	Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan	2017	Cape Fear
Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan	2016	Pender County
Cape Fear Region Transportation 2040	2015	Cape Fear
US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study	2012	Wilmington Urban Area

POLICY SUMMARY REVIEWS

HAZARD MITIGATION AND ENVIRONMENT

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- North Carolina Highway 210 Resiliency Analysis: Hydraulic Modeling and Analysis Report
- Climate Change and Natural Hazards Vulnerability Assessment for the Cape Fear Region
- Climate Resilience Projects for the Cape Fear Region
- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Smart Yards: Simple Do-It-Yourself Solutions for Stormwater Pollution and Shoreline Erosion



North Carolina Highway 210 Resiliency Analysis: Hydraulic Modeling and Analysis Report

Date Published: 2023

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: WSP, for Pender County

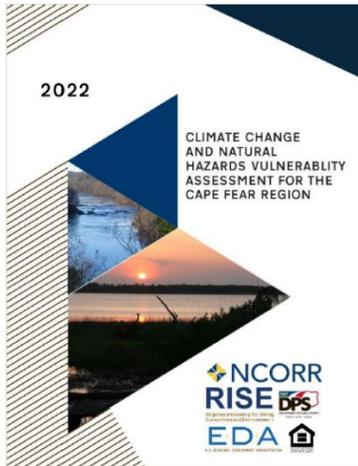
Purpose: Assess the flood resiliency of Highway 210 from the intersection of Highway 210 and I-40 to the intersection of Highway 210 and US 17 in Pender County. This is a major evacuation route.

Key Objectives: Identify barriers to resiliency, develop alternatives to improve roadway resiliency, and

create design plans and cost estimates in alignment with NCDOT's Roadway Feasibility Studies. An existing conditions hydraulic model was developed to assess the impacts of different severity levels of storms. The flood model showed locations that might flood and impede evacuation traffic. The recommended "design frequency" for Highway 210 was increased from a 50-year to a 100-year storm event based on the results of the analysis, and resilience measures were recommended based on this analysis.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation (general)



Climate Change and Natural Hazards Vulnerability Assessment for the Cape Fear Region

Date Published: 2022

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region- Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties

Prepared by: North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resilience (NCORR)

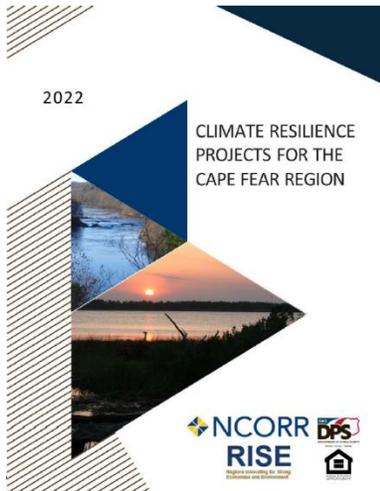
Purpose: To bridge science and local knowledge to identify current and future hazards impacting the region and to

determine the region's strengths and challenges when faced with those hazards.

Key Objectives: Provide detailed insight regarding the susceptibility of the region to climate change and its population, assets, and resources. Report assessed vulnerability across five key areas: social vulnerability and equity; health and safety; housing, critical infrastructure, and community support systems; economy; and natural and historic resources. Describe intensified hazards the region will face; these hazards include increased flooding, hurricanes and severe storms, coastal erosion, sea level rise, more extreme temperatures and incidents of drought, tornadoes, and wildfires.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration



Climate Resilience Projects for the Cape Fear Region

Date Published: 2022

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region- Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties

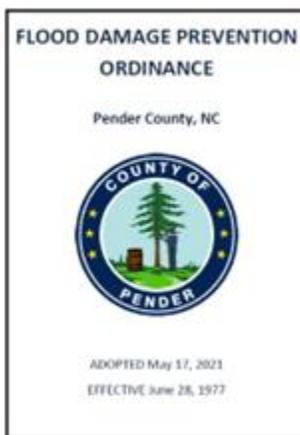
Prepared By: North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resilience (NCORR)

Purpose: To advance resiliency in the Cape Fear region by documenting projects that provide regional resilience benefits across the region.

Key Objectives: Provide insight into the susceptibility of the region to climate change impacts, with an assessment of four key natural hazards that may worsen with the advent of climate change. Identify non-climate stressors that compound the effects of climate change. Identify ongoing local-level initiatives related to climate change resilience and provide a portfolio of recommended projects to help address resilience across the region. The report provides a detailed description of each recommended project.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration



Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Date Published: 2021

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: Establish a specific ordinance, as authorized under the NC 160D legislation, to better protect public health, safety, and general welfare and minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions within flood prone areas. The ordinance includes provisions that regulate certain types of uses in areas vulnerable to

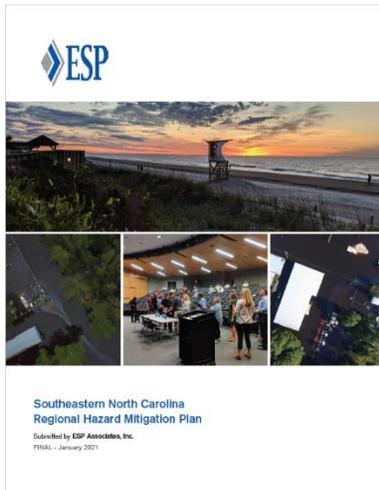
floods, flood protection uses/structures, prevent or control the alteration of natural

floodplains and other natural resources, control filling and development-related damage, and regulate the construction of flood barriers.

Key Objectives: Protect human life, safety, and health; minimize expenditure of public money for flood control projects; minimize the overall impacts of flood on all aspects of life and business; and inform potential buyers that property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience



Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date Published: 2021

Geographic Area: Southeastern North Carolina—Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender Counties

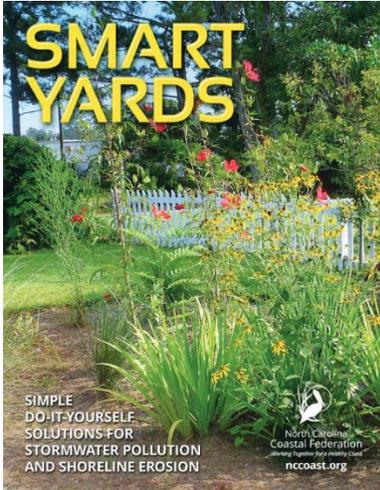
Prepared By: ESP Associates, Inc., North Carolina
Emergency Management

Purpose: Describe and assess hazard risks for the Southeastern North Carolina region, ensure that the region remains eligible for federal disaster assistance.

Key Objectives: Analyze current and future vulnerability to hazards in the region, both natural and human-made, and discuss strategies to mitigate damage from these hazards.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration



Smart Yards: Simple Do-it-Yourself Solutions for Stormwater Pollution and Shoreline Erosion

Date Published: 2017

Geographic Area: Coastal regions of North Carolina

Prepared By: North Carolina Coastal Federation

Purpose: Create an easy-to-use guide for non-experts living in coastal areas of North Carolina to implement simple, property-by-property solutions to reducing stormwater runoffs by using the 'Smart Yard' concept.

Key Objectives: Describe in detail seven different ways to reduce stormwater runoff that individuals and property owners can use. Each 'DIY Solution' has at least one page of information about the solution, descriptions, benefits, resource links, and more.

Planning Topics:

- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration

HOUSING

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program- Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspection Checklist
- Housing Needs Assessment

Section 8 Housing Choice
Voucher Program

Housing Quality Standards
(HQS) Inspection Checklist



Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program- Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspection Checklist

Date Published: 2023

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County/HUD

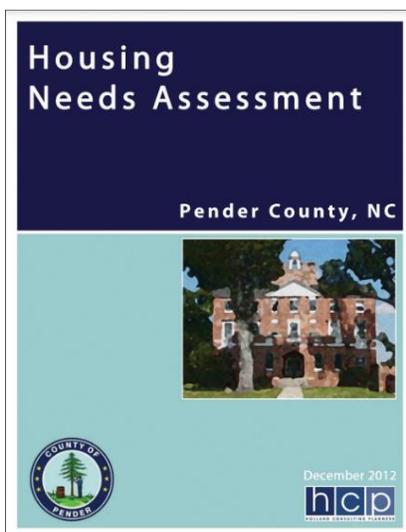
Purpose: Provide checklist for annual Housing Quality Standards Inspections in Pender County.

Key Objectives: List all requirements for HQS inspections, required repairs, commonly failed items, and other

federal standards for Section 8 housing.

Planning Topics:

- Housing (general)
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility



Housing Needs Assessment

Date Published: 2012

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County and Holland Consulting Planners (HCP)

Purpose: Provide a comprehensive view of Pender County's housing needs, with a focus on affordable housing. Emphasize the importance of affordable housing for the County's overall economic success and the needs of the workforce.

Key Objectives: Collect, analyze, and visualize data related to housing in the county, including factors related to housing and housing

attainability like median household income and the county's job market. Conduct an inventory of available housing units and types in the county over time, including building permit activity, the condition of buildings, repetitive loss properties, and more. Analyze income data to determine the 'affordable home ownership ceiling' for Pender County residents of different income levels. Map property values across the county. Detail existing county-level affordable housing programs, initiatives, and goals; water and other infrastructure; and other public services like recreation, public transit, and medical services.

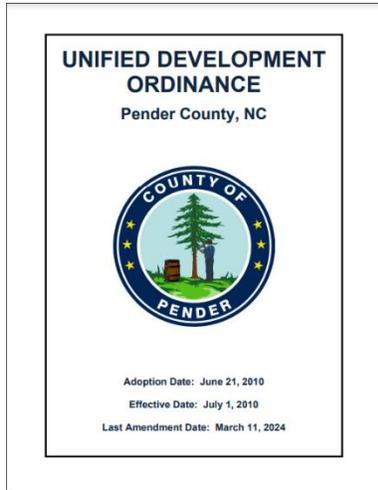
Planning Topics:

- Employment opportunities
- Future land use and community character
- Housing (general)
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- Multimodal transportation
- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Preserving natural resources
- Recreation opportunities

LAND USE

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- Pender County UDO
- Pender 2.0 Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Maple Hill Small Area Plan
- Currie Small Area Plan



Pender County UDO

Date Published: 2010, last amended 2024.

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

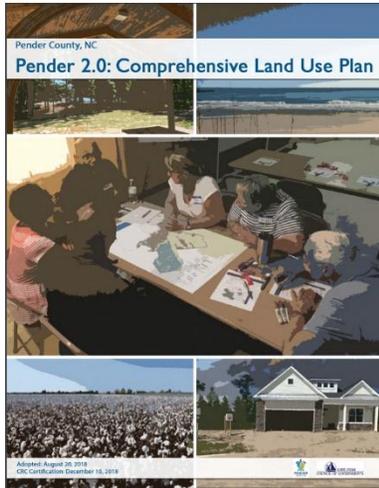
Purpose: Establish land development (zoning and subdivision) regulations for all lands, waters, and structures in Pender County located outside the planning jurisdiction of a town or village.

Key Objectives: Establish all necessary regulations, procedures, and requirements for the County to regulate

development. This includes administrative provisions, the establishment of decision making and administrative bodies, subdivision review procedures, zoning districts and permitted uses, development and design standards, landscaping and buffering standards, signs (“sign ordinance”), nonconformities, road naming and addressing, and enforcement and penalties.

Planning Topics:

- Future land use and community character
- Growth management, annexation, and ETJ
- Housing (general)
- Natural hazards resilience
- Preserving natural resources
- Transportation (general)
- Zoning and development regulations



Pender 2.0 Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Date Published: 2018

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: To update Pender County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan to address development pressure and land use change as rural, agrarian communities in the county face new growth-related challenges. Establish goals, policies, and actions based on public input, and provide the basis for development standards and regulations. Establish and discuss the need for

coordination among not just County departments, but also an array of governmental stakeholders. Map future land uses countywide in the Future Land Use Map and by Planning Areas.

Key Objectives: Utilize community-based values set in a framework to address challenges and conflicts that may arise for land development; assume responsibility for the future and ensure quality development; and help the County create more livable communities while balancing environmental, ecological, social, recreational, and economic needs. Create a future land use map. Describe existing conditions in all plan element areas, along with basic geographic and historical information. Engage residents in a robust fashion to learn what development in the county should look like; see the plan for top resident priorities, which include preserving and enhancing the coastal habitat and agricultural landscape (top priority), ensuring adequate school capacity, and prioritizing enhanced stormwater management and retention for new development while improving drainage in existing communities. Show future land use in the various specific Planning Areas of Pender County, at a smaller scale than is provided by the full Future Land Use (FLU) Map. Plan includes individual FLU maps of the Union, Holly Shelter, Burgaw, Caswell, Long Creek, and Topsail Planning Areas.

Use the information outlined in the Comprehensive Plan to map future land uses and roads within Pender County. The map includes all FLU categories from the Plan, along with existing and proposed roads.

The vision for the 2018 plan was: Protect Pender County’s coastal and agricultural heritage through strategic growth management by focusing development on key locations to minimize impacts to transportation systems, natural habitats, and

existing neighborhoods. Continue to support and offer exceptional schooling to all Pender County students and provide services to enhance local employment opportunities that will reduce commute times and traffic congestion for the County's workforce. Lastly, maintaining the quality of life makes Pender County a community that is a desirable place for visitors and residents alike.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Employment opportunities
- Future land use and community character
- Growth management, annexation, and ETJ
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- Housing (general)
- Multimodal transportation
- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Preserving natural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Regional collaboration



Maple Hill Small Area Plan
Pender County Department of Planning and
Community Development
March 17, 2014



Maple Hill Area Small Area Plan

Date Published: 2014

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: To develop a Small Area Plan for the unincorporated community of Maple Hill, located in rural northeastern Pender County, in order to address the economic, infrastructure, and services (public and private) challenges in the local community. Maple Hill saw disinvestment over time due to both economic

conditions and environmental and geographical challenges.

Key Objectives: Address the challenges facing the Maple Hill neighborhood and chart a path to meeting these challenges. Document existing conditions and provide goals and action items to help guide future policymaking, development, and infrastructure investments in the community. The plan includes the history of the community and a full existing conditions assessment looking at land use, economic

development, housing, and other typical plan elements. There is a particular focus on the community's heritage and sense of place; this is a community asset as defined in the plan. Other notes:

- The community has been hard-hit by flooding and hurricanes over the decades, especially Hurricane Floyd, which had knock-on effects due to contaminated stagnant water. Low-lying natural topography and floodplain extent in this area limits development.
- Loss of industry and economic base.
- Transportation access is difficult; driving is the only option.
- See the plan for neighborhood goals and actions; goals include options such as the creation of opportunities for neighborhood commercial and retail and expanding the bicycle/pedestrian path network.
- Actions include future land use and zoning revisions, incentives, and partnerships for various businesses, obtaining preservation grants, and more.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Employment opportunities
- Future land use and community character
- Housing (general)
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- Multimodal transportation
- Natural hazards resilience
- Preserving natural resources
- Recreation opportunities



Currie Small Area Plan
Pender County Department of Planning and Community Development
October 15, 2012



Currie Area Small Area Plan

Date Published: 2012

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: To develop a Small Area Plan for the unincorporated community of Currie located in rural western Pender County, to help protect the community's rural character and unique

cultural and historical heritage, while addressing anticipated development moving north from New Hanover County. Currie saw disinvestment over time due to the loss

of railroad service and the decline of traditional industries and the agriculture economy.

Key Objectives: The vision for Currie is to integrate new growth around the natural and rural landscape, with an emphasis on green spaces and recreational opportunities; existing natural and historical resources should be preserved while adding new retail, public service, transportation, amenities, etc. Addressing the economic challenges that Currie has faced ensures that future potential growth does not disrupt what makes Currie unique.

The plan describes existing conditions and provides goals and action items to help guide future policymaking, development, and infrastructure investments in the community. The plan includes the history of the community and a full existing conditions assessment looking at land use, economic development, housing, and other typical plan elements. There is a particular focus on the nexus of the community's heritage (including a Revolutionary War battlefield) and natural resources, while adding more recreational, business, and other amenities. As with the Maple Hill Small Area Plan, the Currie Small Area Plan has a number of goals for each plan element, along with FLUM and other maps.

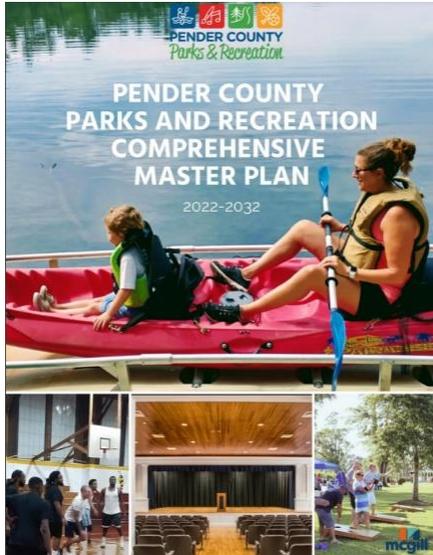
Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Employment opportunities
- Future land use and community character
- Housing (general)
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- Multimodal transportation
- Natural hazards resilience
- Preserving natural resources
- Recreation opportunities

PARKS AND RECREATION

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- Pender County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2022–2032



Pender County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2022–2032

Date Published: 2022

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: To understand the community's parks and recreation needs through public input and various assessments to create a robust plan with action items for the purpose of future improvements and recommendations to better Pender County's Parks and Recreation facilities.

Key Objectives: Describe existing conditions in the county related to parks and recreation and provide basic facts (including trends and projections) related to the county's economy, people, and population. Synthesize relevant reports, studies, surveys, and needs assessments. Conduct stakeholder input and project these community needs and desires into a vision for the future that ensures a legacy of parks and public open spaces for current and future generations. The document includes extensive survey results related to desired parks and recreation facilities, by planning area. Conduct an inventory and assessment of existing park facilities owned by the County. Establish recommendations and an action plan. Objectives from the plan include ensuring adequate staffing, pursuing alternative funding strategies, and developing additional park facilities and amenities. The mission of Pender County's Parks and Recreation Department was adopted in 2021, and the goals and objectives in this plan are meant to meet this mission: "The Pender County Parks and Recreation Department exists to develop, maintain, and enhance County parks, facilities, and green spaces by utilizing the County's resources to encourage, promote, provide and protect quality, equitable, and diverse leisure and recreational opportunities that enrich the lives of Pender County citizens."

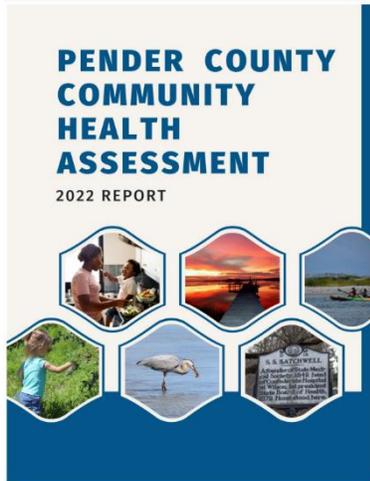
Planning Topics:

- Recreation opportunities

PUBLIC HEALTH

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2022 Report
- Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2018 Report
- Health & Wellness Gap Analysis: Regional Assessment of Health Disparities



Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2022 Report

Date Published: 2022

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

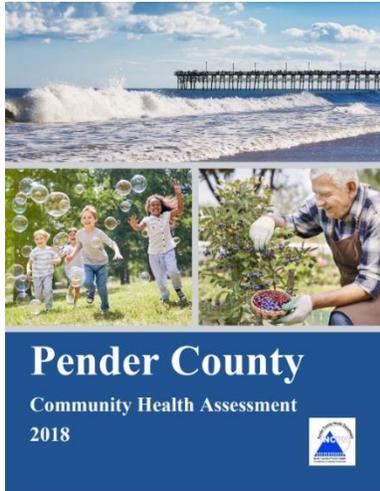
Purpose: Identify factors that affect the health and quality of life in the County, identify resources to address these factors, and serve as a roadmap over a 4-year period for public and private public health interventions.

Key Objectives: Use the eight steps of community health

assessment to measure the state of public health in Pender County. Engage county residents in the Community Health Assessment (CHA) through a community health opinion survey and public forms, to help determine priority areas; establish a steering committee for the CHA. Top priorities in the 2022 CHA were: Heart Health, Substance Use, and Access to Care. The CHA includes a demographic profile and general existing conditions overview; this includes a look at social determinants of health. Top community public health concerns in 2022 included: alcohol, drug, and medication abuse; low income/poverty; lack of affordable housing; road infrastructure/traffic; lack of recreational facilities; and lack of healthy or affordable food.

Planning Topics:

- Public health



Pender County Community Health Assessment: 2018 Report

Date Published: 2018

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County

Purpose: Identify factors that affect the health and quality of life in the County, identify resources to address these factors, and serve as a roadmap over a 4-year period for public and private public health interventions.

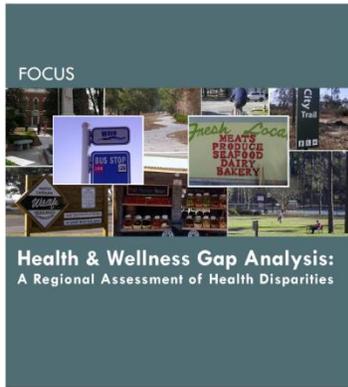
Key Objectives: Use the eight steps of community health assessment to measure the state of public health in

Pender County. Engage county residents in the CHA through a community health opinion survey and public forms, to help determine priority areas; establish a steering committee for the CHA. Top priorities in the 2018 CHA were: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, Nutrition and Physical Activity, and Cancer Education and Prevention. The CHA includes a demographic profile and general existing conditions overview; this includes a look at social determinants of health. Top community public health concerns in 2018 included, among others:

- Alcohol, drug, and medication abuse
- Low income/poverty
- Child neglect & abuse
- Lack of recreation facilities
- Reckless/drunk driving
- Lack of affordable housing

Planning Topics:

- Public health



Health & Wellness Gap Analysis: Regional Assessment of Health Disparities

Date Published: 2014

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium (FOCUS), Community Transformation Grant (CTG; staff assistance), Holland Consulting Planners

Purpose: Create a regional plan for sustainable development throughout Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties. Identify areas of the region that may face dire health issues. Serve as a tool for jurisdictions

within the region seeking to improve public health outcomes through policy changes related to long-range fundamental improvements to the built environment.

Key Objectives: Analyze the nexus of planning and public health (land use and transportation); produce a regional profile (existing conditions); identify top health and wellness issues and priorities and, overall, describe various factors affecting public health in the region. Examples of factors at the nexus of planning and public health include chronic disease factors, motor vehicle deaths, access to physical activity, and recreational opportunities. The top health concerns in the three counties that make up this region, based on community surveys, were chronic disease, obesity, drug and alcohol abuse, aging, and diabetes. Creation of health and wellness priority areas is another key objective (see the maps for the three geographic areas selected).

Planning Topics:

- Multimodal transportation
- Public health
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation (general)

REGIONAL PLANNING

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- FOCUS: Framework for Our Future
- Equitable Growth Profile of the Cape Fear Region
- Health & Wellness Gap Analysis: Regional Assessment of Health Disparities
- Catalysts Project and Complete Communities Report
- Cape Fear Alternative Futures



FOCUS: Framework for Our Future

Date Published: 2015

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Renaissance Planning, for the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium (FOCUS)

Purpose: Create a regional plan to bring together partners and stakeholders across varying levels of government (including regional governments) and develop regional-level solutions to the big problems (growth/growth management, environment, inequality,

transportation, and the economy) to help make the Cape Fear Region as livable and as much of a 'complete community' as possible.

Key Objectives: Highlight the need for action to address the big challenges mentioned in the Purpose section above; discuss existing strengths and challenges the region faces, including job growth, housing, and more. This is a scenario analysis, which looks at how development and growth could occur depending on the type of development (lower versus more density, separated vs. combined land uses) that may occur in the coming decades. The plan recommends more compact, infill-based development, redevelopment, and mixing of uses.

Highlight key findings related to population and economic growth; conduct public engagement related to plan. Recommend 'complete communities' instead of traditional sprawling, car-centric development with no daily needs in close proximity to home. 'Framework principles' for complete communities include building livable places, providing abundant choices and connecting voices. These principles are connected to nine implementation strategies, from creating more housing choice opportunities, to enhancing transportation links and choices.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Employment opportunities
- Future land use and community character
- Growth management, annexation, and ETJ
- Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- Housing (general)
- Multimodal transportation
- Natural hazards resilience
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Preserving natural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation (general)
- Zoning and development regulations

Equitable Growth Profile of the
Cape Fear Region





Equitable Growth Profile of the Cape Fear Region

Date Published: 2015

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region
Prepared By: PolicyLink and PERE (USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity), for the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium (FOCUS)

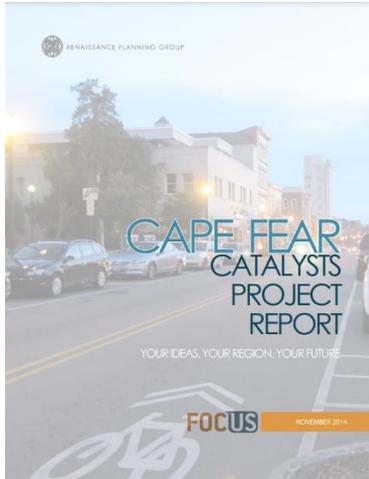
Purpose: Produce an equity profile of the Cape

Fear Region, highlighting the difficulties of economic and other disparities between different groups, along with workforce/skills gaps, and more.

Key Objectives: Note implications of a diversifying and growing region and create five priority goals to spur more equitable growth in the region, based on the assessment of the region's racial/ethnic makeup, projected demographic changes and educational, skills, and other gaps. Emphasize that equity is needed to make the region economically successful in the future so all can prosper.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Employment opportunities
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration



Catalysts Project and Complete Communities Report

Date Published: 2014

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Renaissance Planning Group, for the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium (FOCUS)

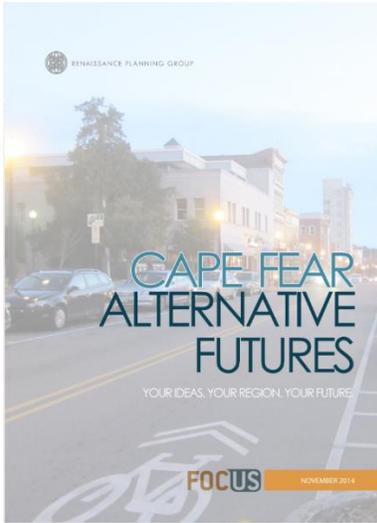
Purpose: Create a regional framework for growth and sustainability in the Cape Fear Region by creating individual 'catalyst reports' for specific sites/corridors

within the region, for them to be developed in a way that is holistically beneficial.

Key Objectives: Provide analysis, outcomes of engagement, and recommendations for four sites in various issue areas like housing, transportation, etc. Make recommendations for each site consistent with the Complete Communities concept.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Employment opportunities
- Housing (general)
- Housing (affordability, diversity, accessibility)
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation



Cape Fear: Alternative Futures

Date Published: 2014

Geographic Area: Lower Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Renaissance Planning Group

Purpose: The Lower Cape Fear Region is growing at a rapid pace. This scenario planning analysis document provides alternative futures in which this region can grow, keeping in mind physical change, potential future opportunities, existing strengths, and the fiscal and environmental sustainability of the region.

Key Objectives: To investigate the intersection of future growth and development patterns, use stakeholder feedback to create assumptions of future scenarios and strategies, create efficient neighborhoods, and provide market-based outcomes to develop land use policies.

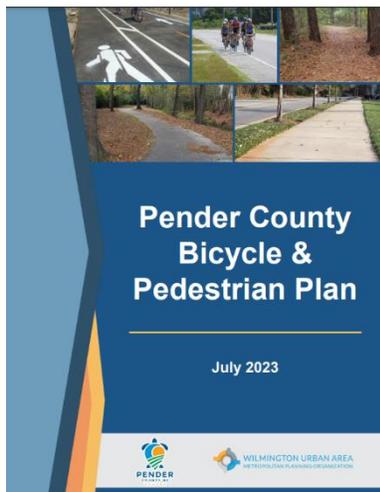
Planning Topics:

- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Scenario Planning

TRANSPORTATION

This section includes a policy summary of the following:

- Pender County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- NC 210 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study
- Pender County Streets Plan 2021
- Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045: Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan
- Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Cape Fear Region Transportation 2040
- US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study



Pender County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Date Published: 2023

Geographic Area: Pender County (WMPO area only)

Prepared By: WSP, for Pender County and the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO)

Purpose: Study bicycle and pedestrian needs in the urbanized area of Pender County.

Key Objectives: Identify recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the study area, as well as specific policies and programs to implement these

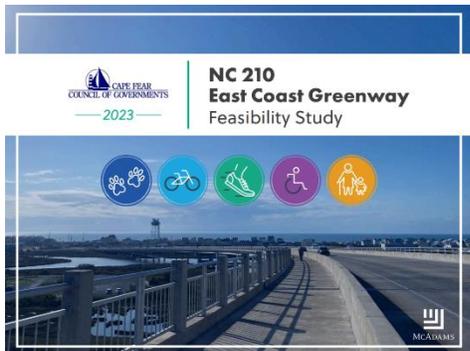
recommendations. Evaluate existing conditions, conduct a network assessment including public engagement, lay out a proposed bicycle and pedestrian network, including priorities and recommended facility types. Conduct a policy review, offer recommendations, and include implementation methods. Note that funding issues constrained this study to only the WMPO urbanized area of the county, but some policy recommendations extend to the entire county. Some takeaways from the plan include:

- 74% of respondents indicated they were interested but concerned with bicycling in Pender County and 69% of respondents indicated they were interested but concerned with walking in Pender County. This means that many survey respondents did not feel safe walking or biking in the county but would like to be able to do so.
- Most public comments supported the draft recommendations.

- Priority bicycle and pedestrian projects focused on adding side paths along state highways or busier roads that are unsafe for bicycles/pedestrians but contain many important destinations.
- See plan for all policy recommendations; one of the top recommendations was to expand the number of Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Overlay Districts to require developer-built bicycle and pedestrian facilities in high-growth and other priority areas of the County.

Planning Topics:

- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest



NC 210 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study

Date Published: 2023

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: McAdams, for the Cape Fear Council of Governments

Purpose: Analyze the potential for the NC 210 East

Coast Greenway bike and pedestrian route; develop a preferred alternative route (safe, off-street path) for the potential greenway, running from Topsail Beach through Surf City to the Topsail Elementary, Middle & High Schools Campus.

Key Objectives: Review relevant policies that may guide or impact trail development. Conduct existing conditions analysis, examine environmental features and topography to understand potential trail constraints, conduct public engagement, and work with a steering committee to develop alternative trail route scenarios. Develop a preferred trail route based on technical analysis of various factors affecting the alternative trail route scenarios. See study for preferred route.

Planning Topics:

- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation (general)

Pender County Streets Plan 2021



Date Published: 2021

Geographic Area: Pender County

Prepared By: Pender County, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), WSP

Purpose: Determine future transportation needs in Pender County by updating the 2016 Pender County Collector Street Plan.

Key Objectives: Update the 2016 Plan with flexibility on collector street recommendations, consideration of

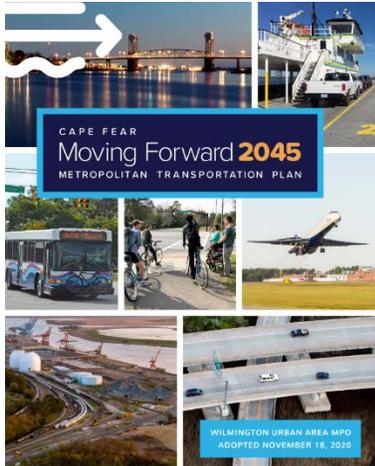
NCDOT design standards, natural resources, and coastal development realities.

Update the 2016 Plan to reflect changes to various state transportation plans and the 2018 County land use plan update, along with other details. Update the plan with new data. The 2021 Plan update includes new recommendations for the development of collector streets based on increased development. The overall goals for this plan, carried over from the 2016 plan, include:

- Develop a realistic and feasible network of collector streets that support the local street and arterial system.
- Work with the development community to ensure proper connectivity and collector street design.
- Be sensitive to environmental issues and “build-in” context-sensitive design approaches where applicable.
- Integrate multimodal design features into the street design that support walkability and bikeability.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Recreation opportunities
- Regional collaboration



Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045: Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Date Published: 2020

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

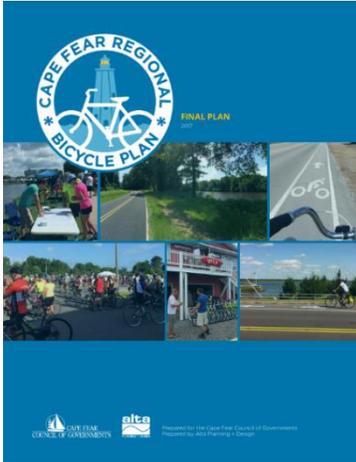
Prepared By: Wilmington Urban Area MPO

Purpose: A mid-term multimodal vision that prioritizes the regional and local level of future transportation needs within the next 25 years. This plan explores the future of transportation in the Cape Fear region in terms of innovative transportation solutions and technologies.

Key Objectives: Utilize public engagement to determine the vision, goals, and objectives to prioritize projects for plan adoption. Based on public input and backed by existing conditions, recommendations can be made to better plan for the future needs of transportation in this region. Transportation Demand Management strategies within short-, medium-, and long-range trips and Fiscally Constrained Project Lists were utilized to determine recommendations for implementation and prioritization of projects within the aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, water transportation, freight, public transportation, and roadway sectors.

Planning Topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Multimodal Transportation
- Public Engagement
- Resiliency
- Transportation



Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan

Date Published: 2017

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Alta Planning + Design, the Cape Fear Council of Governments

Purpose: Develop the first-ever regional bicycle plan for southeastern North Carolina. Identify key bicycling routes and provide recommendations for new facilities, programs, and policies that will support safer bicycling throughout the region.

Key Objectives: Engage the public to learn their preferences and needs related to bicycle transportation in the region. Review existing conditions for bicycling across the Cape Fear region; stakeholder feedback and support for biking in local and regional existing plans is summarized in this section of the plan. Recommend a concept for a regional bicycle network, and include programmatic recommendations, policy recommendations, and an implementation framework.

The plan's four goals are:

1. Increase Transportation Choices - Improve connectivity of the bicycle network while increasing accessibility to transit and key destinations throughout the region.
2. Improve Safety for All Bicyclists - Improve the quality and safety of bicycling through new infrastructure, policies, and programs, for all types of bicyclists.
3. Improve Health and Well-being of Communities - Improve health and wellness by increasing access to bikeways, thereby offering more opportunities for recreation, active transportation, and physical activity.
4. Create Value & Generate Economic Activity - Promote bicycle-related tourism and economic development, thereby increasing quality of life in the Cape Fear Region.

Planning Topics:

- Community infrastructure
- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Recreation opportunities
- Regional collaboration



Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Date Published: 2016

Geographic Area: Pender County

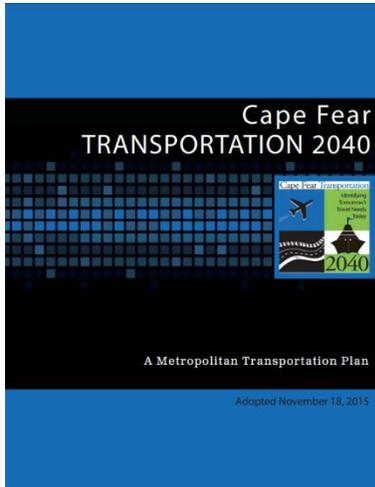
Prepared By: NCDOT, for Pender County

Purpose: Create long range multimodal transportation plan that covers transportation needs through the year 2040. Modes of transportation evaluated as part of this plan include highway, public transportation and rail, bicycle, and pedestrian. This plan does not cover routine maintenance or minor operations issues.

Key Objectives: Analyze the existing transportation system, conduct environmental screening, and public input. The plan includes maps of CTP projects. Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of Pender County, NCDOT, and the towns Atkinson, Burgaw, Wallace, and Watha, and the Village of St. Helena. The report documents the recommendations for improvements that are included in the Pender County CTP. The CTP analyzes the existing and projected future transportation system, considering environmental, human, and other impacts, along with public input. The analysis includes travel demand models and level of service (LOS) compared to roadway capacity, along with other transportation factors and systems. The CTP contains recommendations for transportation projects based on the analysis completed.

Planning Topics:

- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Transportation (general)



Cape Fear Region Transportation 2040

Date Published: 2015

Geographic Area: Cape Fear Region

Prepared By: Pender County, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), WSP

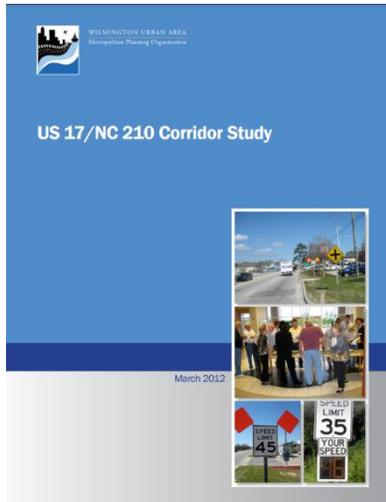
Purpose: Prepare the 2015 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the WMPO planning area. A MTP is a technical document used to guide regional transportation policies and actions, and to develop transportation program funding recommendations within

MPO boundaries through Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIPs) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs). MTPs have a 20-year planning horizon.

Key Objectives: Evaluate projects and strategies (fiscally constrained) that promote mobility and access for people and goods within an MPO's boundaries. Include public involvement within this required evaluation. Prioritize transportation projects based on fiscally constrained funding sources, within six modes of transportation: Aviation, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Ferry and Water Transportation, Freight and Passenger Rail, Mass Transportation, and Roadway. Create a ranking list of project's needs and conduct a fiscal constraint analysis to determine which project could receive transportation funding in the region between 2015 and 2040. See report for list of projects for each mode, and list of prioritized projects and results from public engagement.

Planning Topics:

- Multimodal transportation
- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Regional collaboration
- Transportation (general)



US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study

Date Published: 2012

Geographic Area: Hampstead, NC (segments of US 17 and NC 210 within Hampstead)

Prepared By: Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), NCDOT, North Carolina Board of Transportation

Purpose: Address safety and mobility deficiencies on US 17 and NC 210 in Hampstead, NC; identify practical strategies that are consistent with the vision for Hampstead, which reduce the rate of injuries and

fatalities in traffic crashes, reduce travel delay, and improve travel for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Key Objectives: Analyze existing conditions (including traffic, crash history, speed surveys, bike/pedestrian facilities, and more), conduct public engagement, development alternatives, create recommendations for access to US 17 and NC 210, share policy recommendations and an implementation plan. Gather public comment on various safety issues and potential interim and permanent interventions (medians, new traffic signals, etc.). A key takeaway was public support for the installation of a traffic signal at the US 17 and Washington Acres Road intersection. Recommendations also include building raised medians, bulb-outs, and a new traffic signal at Washington Acres Road, among others.

Planning Topics:

- Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- Transportation (general)