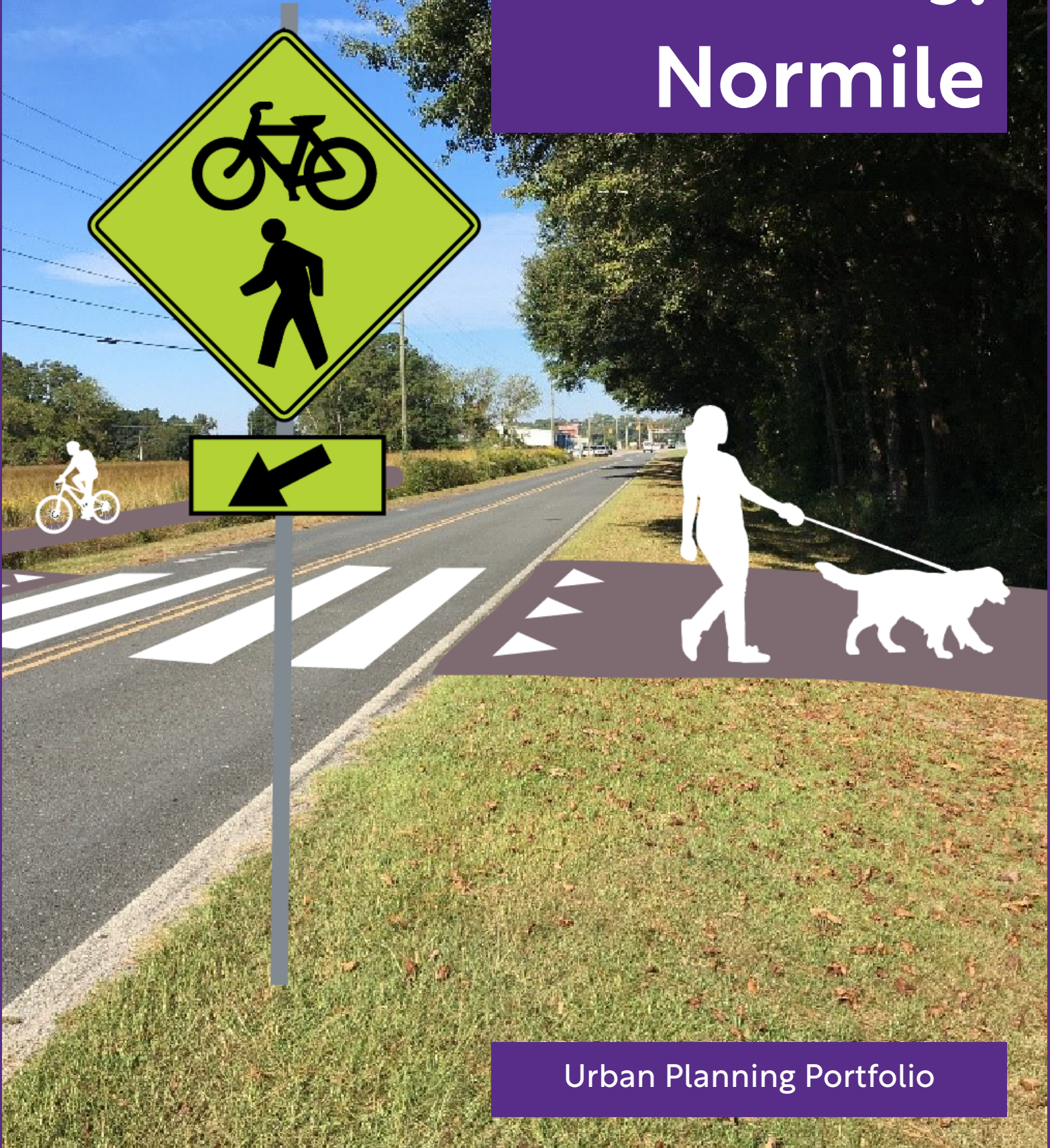


Christopher J. Normile



Urban Planning Portfolio

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My name is Christopher J. Normile, and I am an aspiring planner with strong professional skills and experience. I will graduate in May 2022 with a B.S. in Community and Regional Planning from East Carolina University, where I have excelled both in and out of the classroom.

I have been active as a leader within several student groups at ECU, including serving as elected Secretary and President of the Student Planners Action Network (SPAN). While a student I have completed internships giving me diverse experiences in transportation planning for the City of Raleigh and developing a new economic development plan for rural Hyde County, North Carolina.

With special interests in transportation, design, and historic preservation, I am eager to begin making a difference as a planner.

**All images my own unless otherwise listed.*



About Me

Christopher J. Normile

Resume

Contact Information

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Work Experience

January 2021-present
WZMB 91.3 FM, Greenville, NC
 On-Air Personality

January 2020-present
Outback Steakhouse, Garner, NC
 Host/Busser/Takeaway Specialist

May-December 2021
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
 RISE29 Intern

March-May 2021
City of Raleigh, NC
 Partnership Raleigh Community Climate Intern, Office of Transportation Planning

Volunteer Experience

November 2018-present
Wake County Board of Elections, Raleigh, NC
 Precinct Official

June 2019-July 2020
A Place at the Table, Raleigh, NC
 Fundraiser

December 2019-March 2020
SPCA of Wake County, Raleigh, NC

August 2016-April 2018
Abilities Tennis Association, Cary, NC
 Volunteer

Education

East Carolina University
 Greenville, NC

May 2022
Bachelor of Science, Community and Regional Planning, Political Science minor

Honors and Awards

- Chancellor's List
 Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
- Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship, 2021-22

Central Piedmont Community College
 Charlotte, NC

May 2020
Geomatics Technology Certificate, Geospatial Fundamentals, 4.0

December 2019
Associate of Arts, 3.94

Honors and Awards

- President's List, Spring 2019

Relevant Skills

ArcGIS
 Microsoft Office
 Adobe Creative Suite
 Communication and Active Listening
 Leadership

Relevant Coursework

Land Use Planning
 Urban Form and Design
 Planning Legislation and Administration
 Housing and Neighborhood Planning
 Transportation Planning
 Planning Studio
 Practicum in Planning

Hyde County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2021-26

Planning

Type: Internship Project
Completion: Summer 2021
Client: Hyde County, NC

In 2021 I worked as an intern through the prestigious RISE29 program at East Carolina University. During the summer semester I was contracted by the government of Hyde County, North Carolina to write an update to their 2007 Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Hyde County is among the largest counties in North Carolina by physical size, but its population of just 4,589 in 2020 makes it the second-least populous in the state. It is divided into two distinct geographies—the mainland, which is characterized by low-lying farmland criss-crossed by drainage canals and the expansive Lake Mattamuskeet, and Ocracoke Island, a barrier island that is popular with tourists and can only be reached by boat or plane.

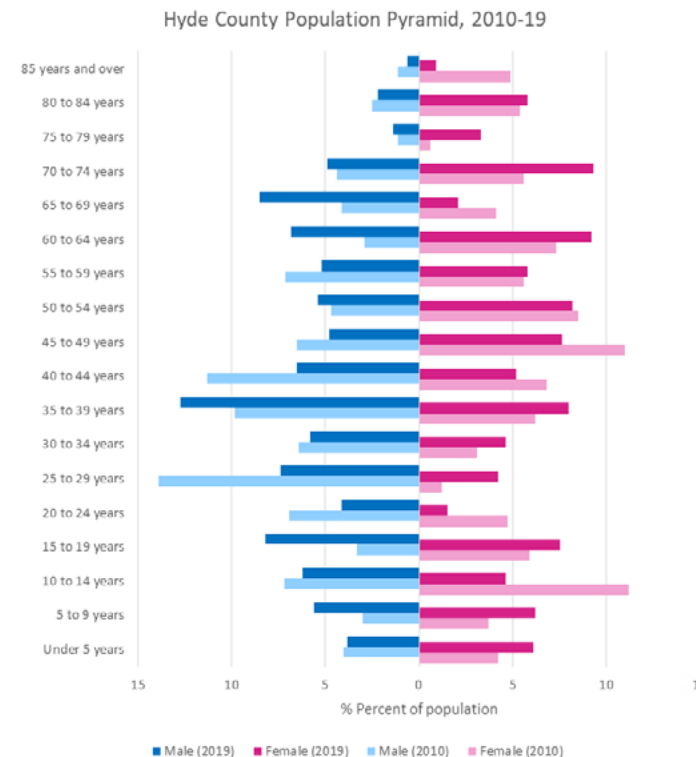
This project involved extensive research and analysis of the County's current demographic and economic trends, which showed that the coastal community's population is rapidly declining as well as aging. The economy is heavily dependent on mainland farming and summer tourism on Ocracoke Island, with additional emphasis on fishing and the emerging manufacturing sector. Additional challenges include the County's low elevation, which makes it highly vulnerability to sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, as well as its poor access to healthcare and educational facilities.

Despite these challenges, there is plenty to be proud of as well. The County is rich with natural and cultural attractions, as evidenced by its strong tourism industry. The Mattamuskeet Lodge, a former pumping station that sits on

HYDE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026



Mattamuskeet Lodge. Photo by Todd Pusser (Mims, 2016).



Data Source: 2000 Census, 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

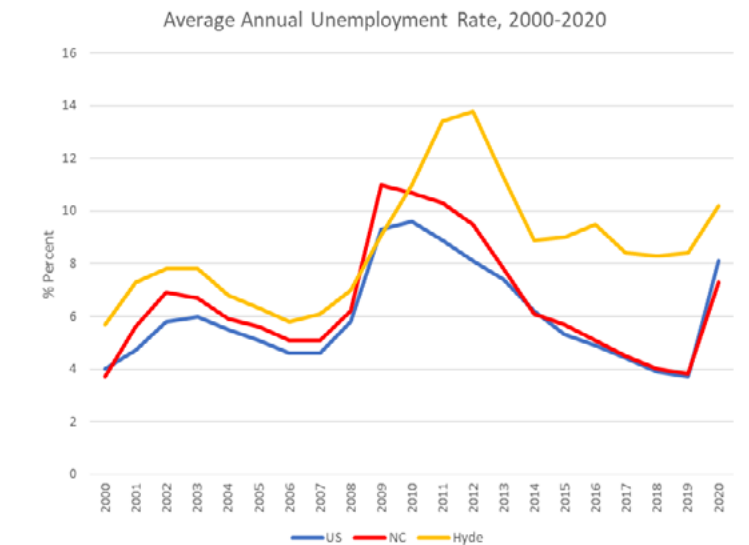
the edge of the largest natural lake in the state, remains a promising historic structure that could be repurposed for events and lodging. The recent rise in remote work marks a trend from which Hyde County, with its inexpensive land and small-town character, could be well-positioned to benefit. Based on these findings, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, and some survey data provided by the community, the Plan identifies five primary strategy areas, each with additional specific recommendations:

- *Broadband Availability*
- *Healthcare Access*
- *Transportation Infrastructure*
- *Small Business Support*
- *Communication and Marketing*

Each of the thirty-four individual recommendations features a list of parties responsible for carrying it out as well as an expected timeline. This will help the county identify actions that

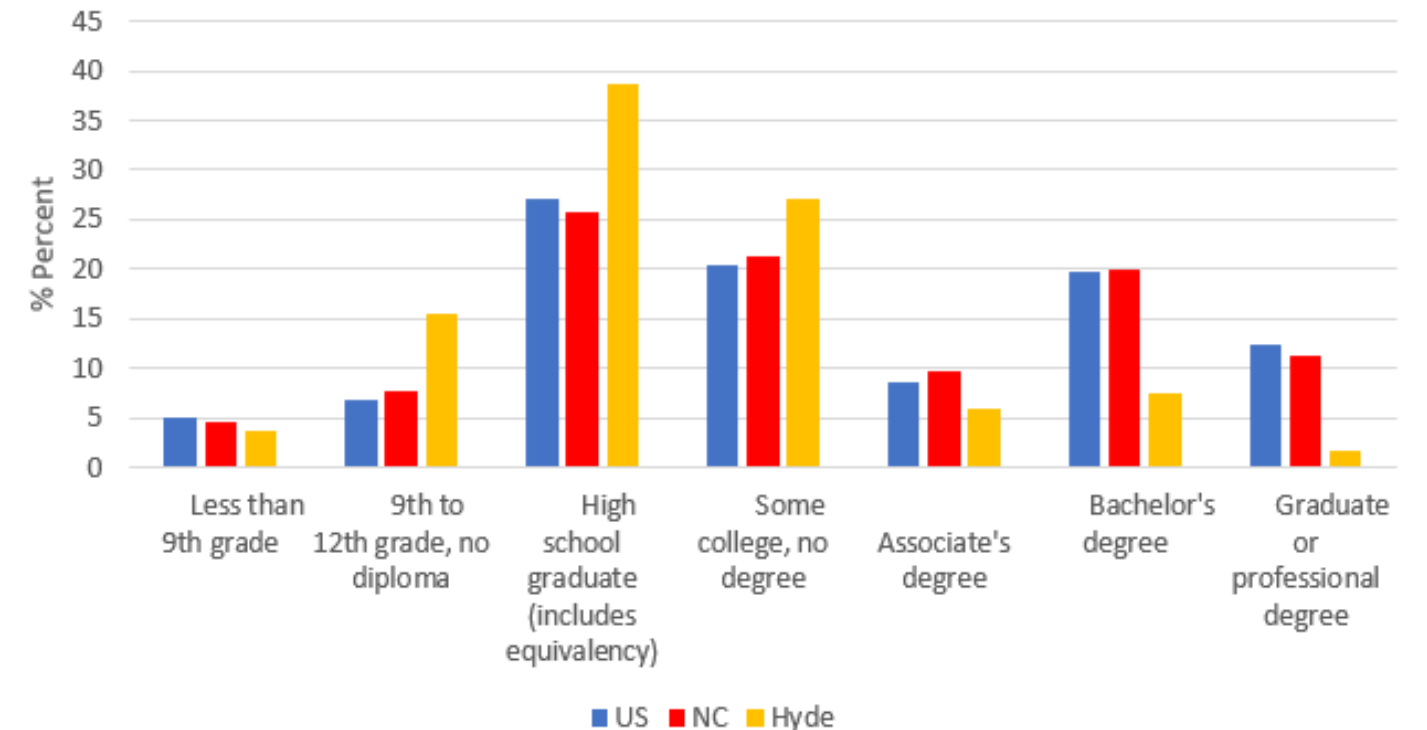
must be taken sooner, and those which will build upon other actions.

The document was completed in August 2021 and is currently being reviewed by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. County Manager Kris Noble expects the Board to formally adopt the Plan sometime in 2022. It will serve as a vital document in helping the County guide its development for the near future.



Data Source: NC Department of Commerce

Educational Attainment of Population Age 25+, 2019



Data Source: Census Bureau, 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Parker's Creek Greenway Plan

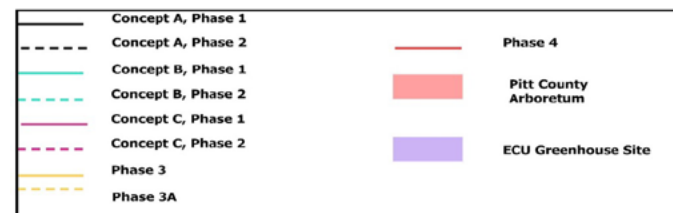
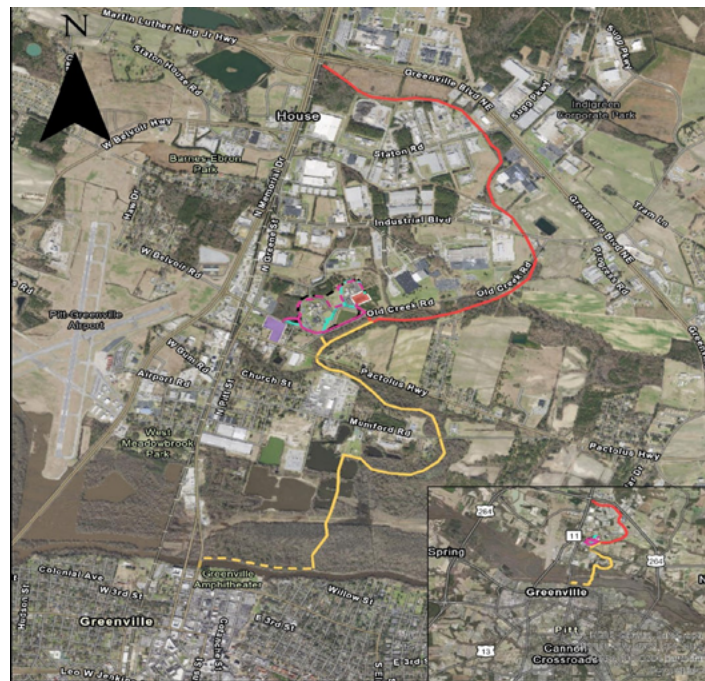
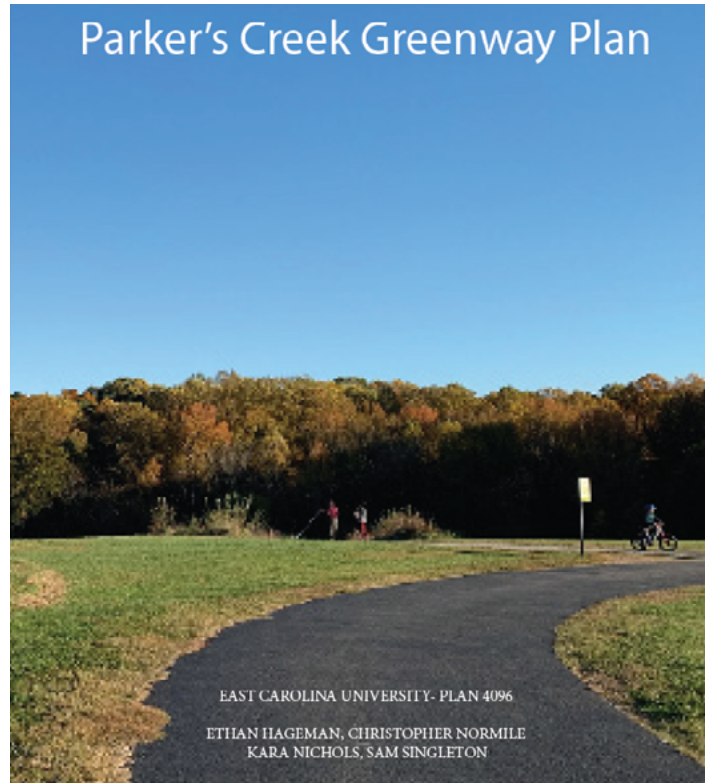
Type: Coursework - Planning Studio
Completion: Fall 2021
Client: Pitt County, NC
**Team Project*

PLAN 4096: Planning Studio is a senior capstone course putting students' skills to work in a real-world application. This class focuses on the development of a plan for a client in eastern North Carolina. Under the direction of Professor Merrill Flood and in collaboration with three teammates, I helped develop a plan for a greenway and multiuse trail in Pitt County.

The resulting document is the Parker's Creek Greenway Plan, which studies a potential greenway connection north of the Tar River that would run along its namesake, Parker's Creek. The impetus for this greenway is the anticipated development of a new research greenhouse as part of East Carolina University's Millennial Campus. This facility would be located on a parcel of land adjacent to the Pitt County Office Park and Arboretum. The County wants to increase connectivity in this area, as currently there are no sidewalks or bicycle facilities.

To begin, the project team analyzed the area and found that it contains relatively little residential but considerable employment, especially in the industrial sector with seven of the County's largest manufacturing employers being located nearby. The region is flat and low-lying, and prone to flooding as one gets closer to the river. The few residents who do remain are less wealthy than the Pitt County average, and have less access to vehicles. Yet the lack of trails in this area makes it harder for this population to get around.

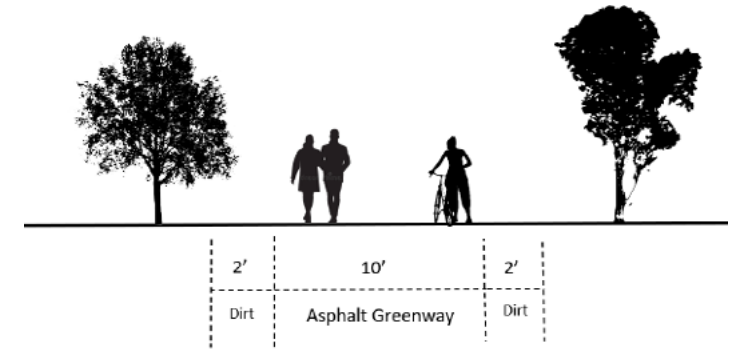
A survey was distributed among staff at the Pitt County Office Park and based on the 59 responses a greenway received strong support. A significant number said they already use an unofficial walking trail around the site several times per week, and about one-third



of respondents indicated they would at least consider commuting to work by bicycle if a greenway existed. The nearest greenway trails are across the Tar River, but a proposal to use federal coronavirus relief funds to extend a trail to River Park North is currently being considered by the City of Greenville.

The project team evaluated several alternatives for routing and material before settling on a recommendation for an asphalt trail. The route could be implemented in stages, with the first phase connecting the new greenhouse with the Pitt County Arboretum, the second phase completing a loop around the Pitt County Office Park, and the third phase extending south along Parker's Creek to River Park North. This would provide not only a connection between the various sites in the area, but a recreational trail linking the Arboretum to the existing greeways maintained by the City of Greenville.

The plan also examined a variety of materials and features that could be selected for the project. Asphalt was selected as the ideal paving material, but the actual construction may require other surfaces due to flood zones and budgetary limitations. Features such as bicycle racks and maintenance stations, benches, and lighting were also considered, and cost



estimates developed for each. The expense and type of street crossing was among these features, as based on street type and guidance from the North Carolina Department of Transportation there should be ample justification for a signed crossing. This would go a long way toward making the greenway safer for users.

A final cost estimate was developed with the help of an experienced local consultant, Mark Garner. Phase one, approximately a half-mile in length, was estimated at about \$669,000. The cost would increase to about \$1,007,000 if the second phase were included. Options for funding sources were identified at the federal, state, and local government levels.

The final report and presentation was well-received and given the highest score in the class. Pitt County Planning Director James Rhodes expects the County to put this document into use in the near future.

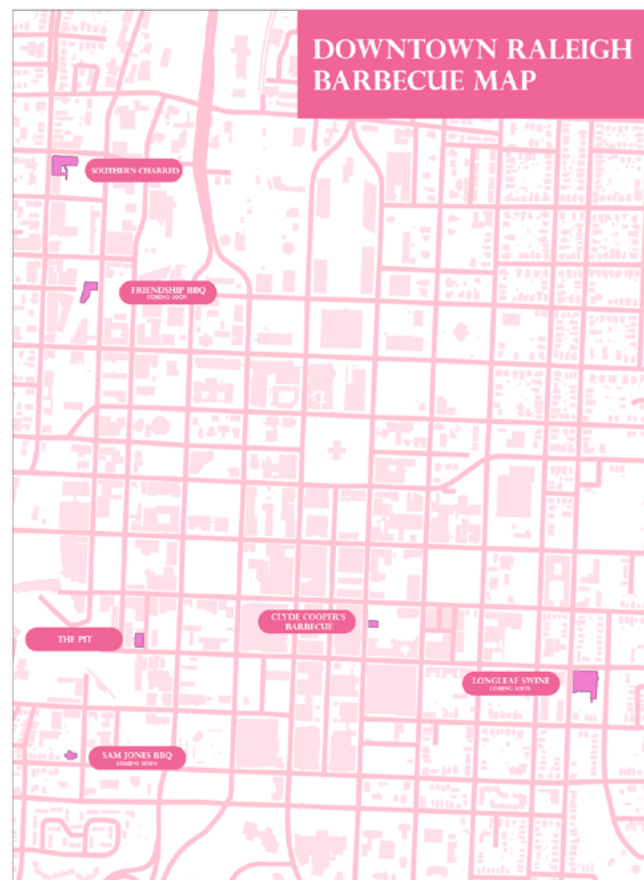


Downtown Raleigh Barbecue Map

Design

Type: GIS Exercise
Completion: Fall 2019

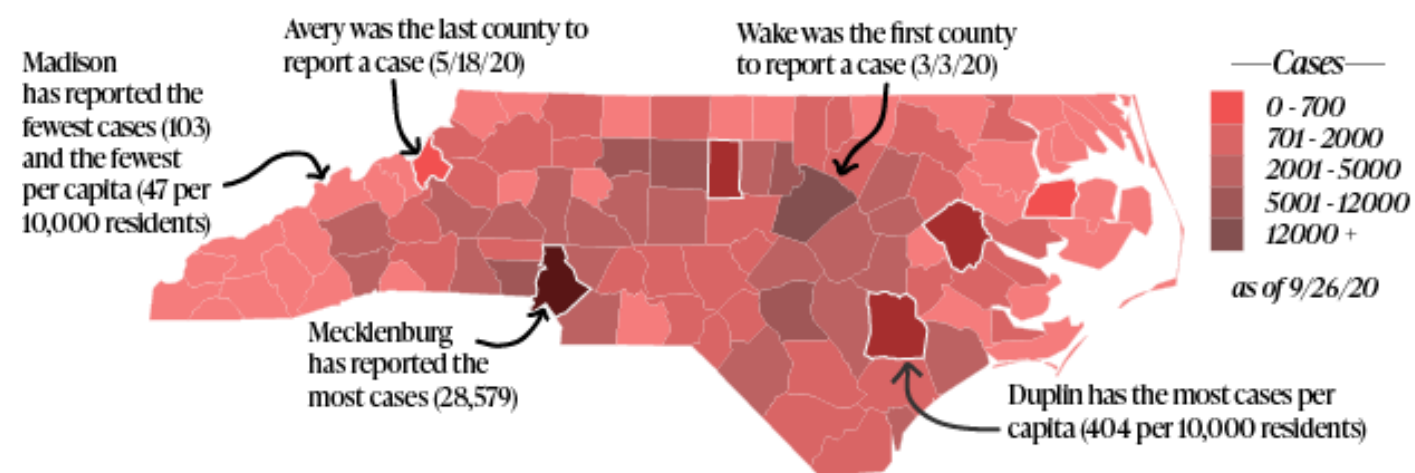
In Fall 2019 I created a small poster highlighting the increasing concentration of barbecue restaurants in the downtown area of North Carolina's capital. This poster, called the Downtown Raleigh Barbecue Map, was created using ArcGIS and Adobe Illustrator and is displayed to the right.



COVID in Carolina

Type: Coursework - Computer Applications in Planning
Completion: Fall 2019

COVID in Carolina was a poster created in Fall 2020 highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina. Created for Dr. Misun Hur's PLAN 3041: Computer Applications in Planning course, this was a group final project intended to show off the Adobe Creative Suite skills we learned during the class. My component of the poster, a map showing COVID cases as of September 2020, is included below and was voted by my peers as the best element of any team's poster in the class.

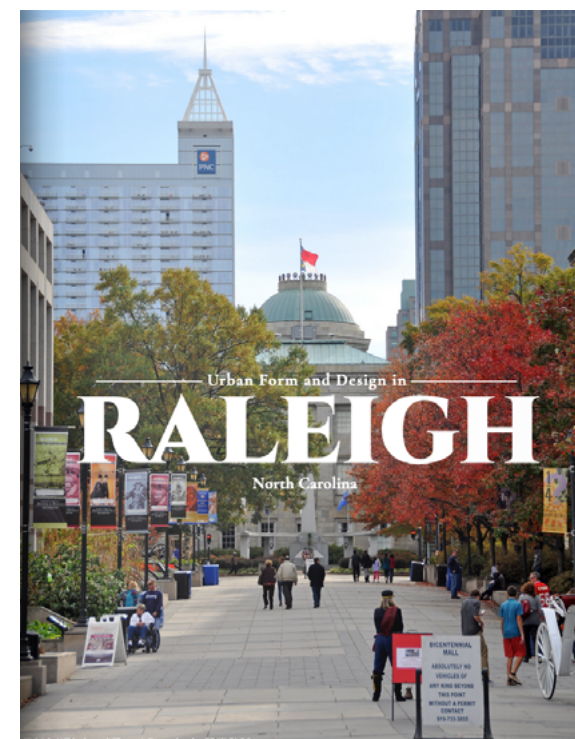


Urban Form and Design in Raleigh, NC

Type: Coursework - Urban Form and Design
Completion: Fall 2020

For the final project in Dr. Anuradha Mukherji's PLAN 4003: Urban Form and Design class I was tasked with creating a catalog exploring spatial concepts in a format of my choice. My submission examined the history of urban design in four sections, focusing on The Industrial City, Modern Planning, Sprawl and Density, and Public Space.

An additional challenge was to incorporate themes of a place into the magazine; to accomplish this I related each subject to my home city of Raleigh, NC. At the end of the semester Dr. Mukherji selected this project as one of two outstanding examples from the class to feature on the ECU Planning website.



4 The Industrial City

Though they offered stable employment, thanks to the lack of zoning laws, industrial facilities and railroads made poor neighbors. They were unsanitary, and often unsafe. Life expectancy nearby was low. Additionally, cities grew crowded, and living conditions were horrendous in many places. People began to wish for an escape into a more rural setting, away from the hustle and bustle of the vulgar, industrialized city. Yet even the most ardent proponents of country living, such as Frederick Law Olmsted, acknowledged the country could not replace the economic, cultural, and social opportunities offered by the city. As a suburban commuting lifestyle was still out of reach for many, Olmsted proposed to bring a little bit of the country into the city.



Ebenezer Howard

Considered one of the most influential persons in the history of town planning, Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928) was an English journalist and theorist who popularized the idea of the "Garden City." He spent time in America, witnessing firsthand as Chicago rebuilt after the Great Fire, but later returned to England. Lacking any training in design he nevertheless developed plans for utopian cities based on his theories of space and nature. He abhorred the wild, overcrowded cities of the day, but recognized that they offered advantages unmatched by the country. He proposed to marry the best qualities of both into a new concept—the Garden City. Featuring large parks wrapped by belts of urban development, this model would allow city dwellers easy access to nature. His plans also proposed smaller towns connected via a circular railway and a system of roads and canals. The remaining land would be left largely undeveloped. This model never came into being, but Howard's ideas were implemented in the new towns of Letchworth Garden City and Welwyn Garden City in the UK, and the Greenbelt towns in America.

"Arista Cotton Mill Complex" by Toemso08 is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Ebenezer Howard (see previous page) took another, bolder approach. Rather than simply retrofit the city for civilized life, he sought to reinvent it through the creation of "Garden Cities." The very idea of combining the leafy green countryside with the economic and cultural provisions of the city seemed like the best of both worlds, and also exceedingly obvious. "Neither the Town magnet nor the Country magnet represents the full plan and purpose of nature," he wrote. "Human society and the beauty of nature are meant to be enjoyed together. The two magnets must be made one."

The Industrial City 5



Howard's Garden City diagram. "Ebenezer Howard" by juanofarcan is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Howard's model helped lay the intellectual groundwork for modern suburban life as it became feasible thanks to transportation innovations not available in Olmsted's time, while Olmsted provided the practical knowledge of how to best combine the town and the country. Together they would influence the growth and development of American cities for generations to come.



"Dorothea Dix Park, Raleigh, NC" by chucks...nc is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

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