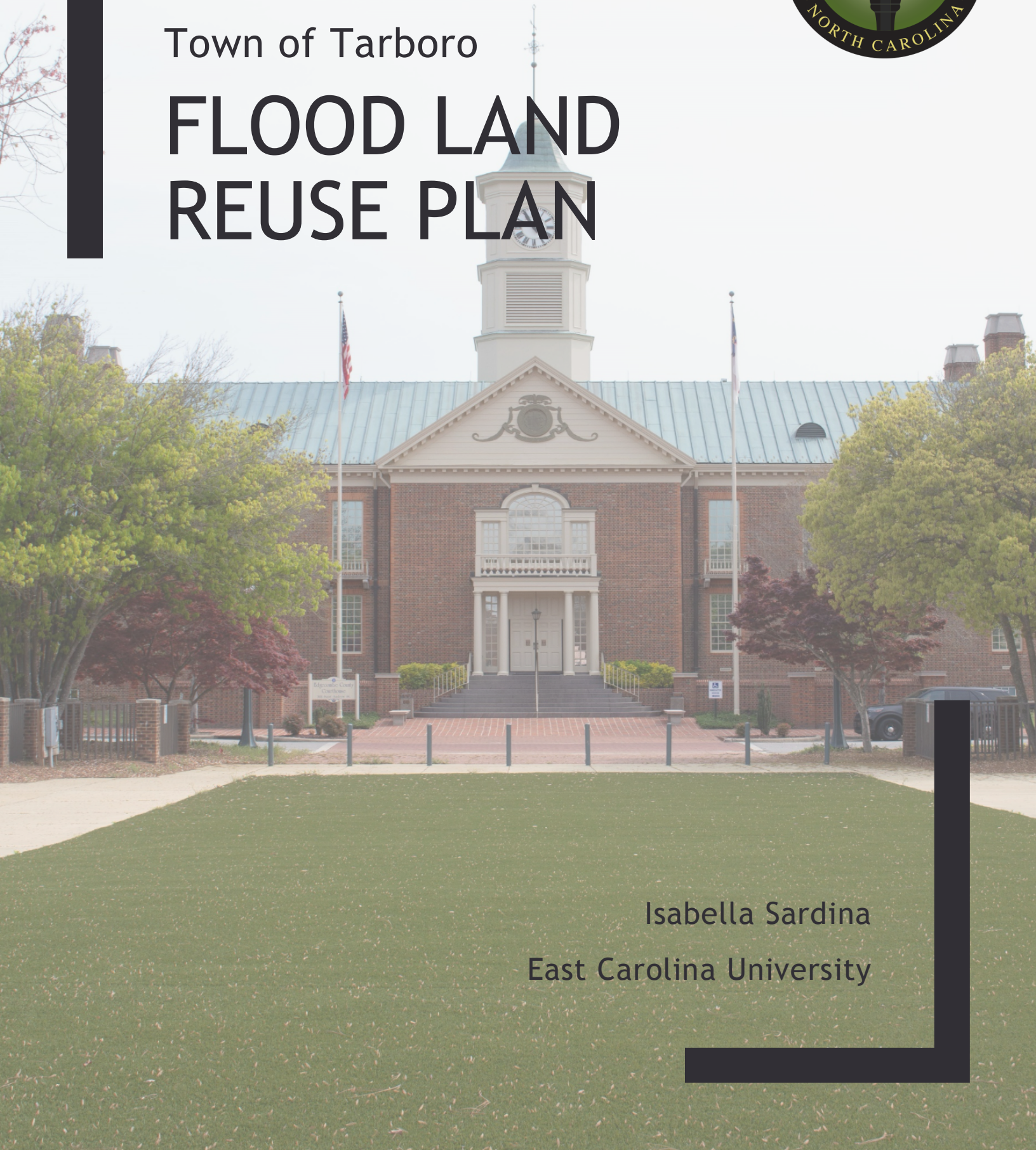




Town of Tarboro

# FLOOD LAND REUSE PLAN



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East Carolina University

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# Executive Summary

Throughout history, the Town of Tarboro has experienced highly impactful flooding events. As one example of a more recent event, the torrential rains produced by 1999's Hurricane Floyd caused flash flooding in Tarboro and surrounding areas, including Princeville and Rocky Mount. Rivers and streams flooded nearby roads and communities, in which more than 60 single family homes and over 50 multi-family homes were lost in the flood hazard area.

In 1999, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acquired and elevated properties impacted by Hurricane Floyd under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Then in 2016, Hurricane Matthew brought about a second wave of buyouts due to losses sustained from flooding. In total, FEMA acquired 54 Tarboro properties through this program.

The FEMA HMGP program provides individuals and families, whose homes are impacted by flood events, the opportunity to relocate from flood hazard areas. Tarboro must now determine how to make use of the acquired lands, within constraints imposed by FEMA regulations.

This report provides recommendations for authorized reuse of the properties, with strong consideration for the Tarboro community's wants and needs, as determined by various research methods such as community surveys and conversations with key stakeholders.

## Objectives

This flood land reuse plan aims to:

1. Outline how engagement with Tarboro's residents and local leaders helped with further understanding the context of the town's needs.
2. Identify potential reuses for acquired buyout properties while complying with FEMA restrictions and considering Tarboro's goals.
3. Contribute to ongoing community initiatives and direct the town of Tarboro in the reuse and maintenance of these properties.

## Partnership

This report was produced through a collaborative effort between the East Carolina University (ECU) Community and Regional Planning program and the Town of Tarboro, under guidance of the project's sponsor; Catherine Grimm, Planning Director at Tarboro, to address the challenge of repurposing lands acquired through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) following Hurricanes Floyd and Matthew.



# Background

Figure 2: Tarboro Town Common Sign (Source: Town of Tarboro Parks and Recreation)

## Location

The Town of Tarboro is in Eastern North Carolina, and is about 25 miles north of Greenville, NC. Tarboro lies within Edgecombe County's central region and serves as the county seat. The town borders Princeville to the east.

Tarboro's residential neighborhoods are principally located in the eastern, north central, and north-western portions of the town and are in the flood hazard areas. The Tar River flood hazard area is identified as the greatest constraint to land development in Tarboro, encompassing over 3,000 acres.

Tarboro's population stands at approximately 10,721, with a median household income of \$43,523. The town comprises 5,058 housing units, accommodating around 4,776 households. The demographic makeup reflects a diverse community, with 52.20% identifying as Black or African American, 42.48% as White, and smaller percentages for American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and other racial groups.



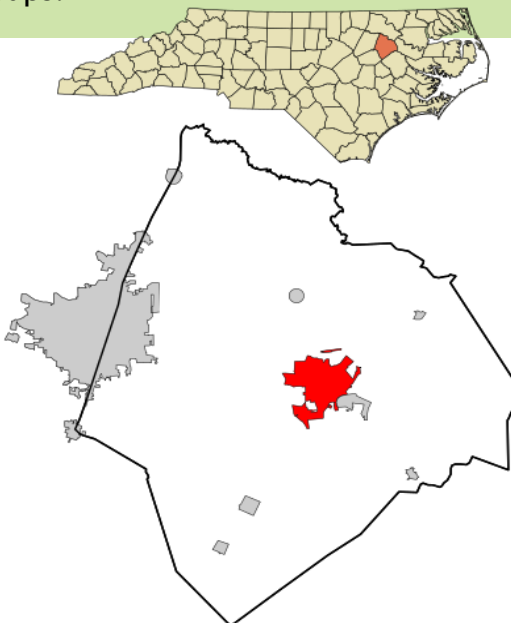
## History of the Town of Tarboro

The history of Tarboro traces back to its founding in 1760 by the North Carolina Colonial Legislature. Originally named "Tawboro" after the Tuscarora word "Taw," meaning "river of health," the town quickly became a vital colonial river port and trade center. Its strategic location on the Tar River made it a hub for commerce and transportation until the onset of the Civil War.

In 1764, Tarboro officially became the county seat of Edgecombe County, a position it has retained ever since.

Tarboro's history is intertwined with the struggle for freedom and equality. In the aftermath of the Civil War, many newly emancipated individuals crossed the Tar River and established the community of Freedom Hill, which later became Princeville. In 1885, Princeville made history as the first town in the United States incorporated by African Americans, highlighting Tarboro's legacy of resilience and progress.

Figure 1: Location of Edgecombe County and Tarboro (Source: Town of Tarboro Wikipedia)







# FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allocates funds to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to aid in the development of hazard mitigation plans and to facilitate rebuilding efforts aimed at minimizing future disaster-related losses in their respective communities. This grant assistance becomes accessible following a presidentially declared disaster. While individual homeowners and businesses are ineligible to directly apply for grants under this program, local communities can seek funding on their behalf. To qualify for hazard mitigation project funding, local governments must first formulate and adopt hazard mitigation plans.

Following Hurricane Floyd in 1999, Tarboro applied for funding on behalf of its residents. FEMA granted Tarboro over \$2.7 million through HMGP for property acquisition and elevation, with approximately \$1.9 million allocated for buyouts. The initial wave of HMGP buyouts after Floyd utilized around \$1.3 million for 38 acquisitions. Subsequently, in 2016 after Hurricane Matthew, around \$630,000 was utilized for 16 additional acquisitions. In total, 54 properties in Tarboro were acquired through the HMGP program.

## FEMA Buyout Property Restrictions

Participation in the Hazard Mitigation Program by a unit of local government results in conditions and covenants regarding reuse of the properties. By acceptance of the HMGP funds for buyout, participating jurisdictions agree to these conditions by grant agreement execution. The reuse of flood-prone areas acquired through FEMA-funded property acquisition projects requires strict adherence to regulations outlined by FEMA. These regulations are designed to ensure that the acquired spaces are repurposed in a manner that enhances community resilience and mitigates future flood risks.

Per FEMA regulations, no new structures are to be built on the property, with exceptions for:

- Public buildings that are open on all sides and functionally related to a designated open space or recreational use.
- Public restrooms.
- Structures that are compatible with open space, recreational or wetlands management use and applicable floodplain management policies and practices, and for which compatibility is confirmed in writing by the FEMA regional administrator before construction of the structures begins.

Given these requirements, it is essential for the land controlling entity to consider opportunities for reuse that do not rely purely on the development of new structures. Rather, sustainable ways to utilize the purchased properties within these flood-prone areas must be identified that minimize risks from future flooding events. That is the essence of mitigation.

## Tarboro Land Use Development Goals

Tarboro's land use development goals, as highlighted in the town's 2008 land use development plan, reflect a comprehensive approach to promoting sustainable growth and development while preserving the town's natural and historical heritage. One key goal, as outlined in goal 4, is to "preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas from intensive development." This goal shows the town's commitment to environmental stewardship and highlights the importance of ensuring that any reuse of buyout properties aligns with this objective.

## Methods

### NOAA-RISA Research Team

A team of researchers at East Carolina University has undertaken a study on the intended and unintended consequences of buyout programs in Tarboro, NC. Supported by funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA) program, this research aims to shed light on the complex impacts of such programs. Through a series of interviews with public officials, community leaders, and residents of Tarboro, the team seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of various perspectives surrounding property buyouts. Although the study is still in progress, the early findings—insights gained from interviews with public officials regarding the utilization of bought-out properties and their potential implications—provide valuable context when identifying potential reuse options.

The following notable quotes offer valuable perspectives for determining the optimal reuse strategies for acquired buyout properties in Tarboro. These quotes are from the findings of the NOAA-RISA team's research, and the names of the individuals who share this information are to remain confidential.

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*"I think fiscally, one of the impacts that we see is that when buyout takes place, the local government assumes the ownership of the property."*

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*"One of our challenges again, speaking about how lean we run for a community our size, we have a large number of parks already for community our size."*

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*“Just recently though, this past year, we entered into an agreement with a local nonprofit to do some urban farming, community garden-type stuff. Because we have large swaths of land from Floyd.”*

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*“And while it doesn't seem like it's a lot; when you already run lean in a government in a public works department like we do, it does create a large burden on our department because you have to budget not just for the labor, but for their equipment and so forth to be able to handle those properties, or figure out partnerships with other groups or individuals that would be willing to come on to do like a community garden or something to help manage and maintain those.”*

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These quotes provide firsthand perspectives on the fiscal and logistical considerations involved in this process. It is evident that local resources such as: local maintenance funding allocated by the budget and local employees who have responsibilities for maintenance of acquired properties are impacted significantly by the maintenance demands brought by this inventory of acquired properties. This presents a challenge to consider when examining the reuses of the acquired properties. It is important to propose solutions that alleviate some of the burdens on the local government, such as leasing to adjoining individuals and establishing a community garden in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

## Community Survey

### Community Preferences and Land Use Survey: Bought-out Flood Lands

Keeping Tarboro's land use development goals in mind in concert with development of these recommendations, a survey was crafted with the aim of gathering comprehensive feedback from diverse stakeholders in Tarboro regarding the optimal reuse of the bought-out parcels. The survey design was methodically structured to encompass various types of questions, strategically targeting different aspects of land reuse.

The primary objective was to solicit opinions from residents on several key factors pertaining to the land's reuse. This included exploring their preferences for potential concepts or options for land reuse, understanding which aspects of the reuse were deemed most significant to them, and gauging their level of interest in further involvement in the reuse process.

To achieve this goal, the survey incorporated a mix of questions, ensuring a detailed understanding of perspectives. The Likert scale inquiries provided structured responses to measure agreement or disagreement with specific statements regarding land reuse options. Meanwhile, open-ended questions allowed respondents to express their thoughts and ideas freely, providing valuable qualitative insights into their preferences and concerns.

**Community Preferences and Land Use Survey:  
Bought-out Floodlands**

**Survey Consent**

By continuing with this survey, you are giving your voluntary consent to participate. Your responses will be confidential and used solely for research purposes. Your personal information will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party. Please be assured that your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the survey at any point without penalty. If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact **Isabella Sardina** at **Sardinai22@students.ecu.edu**. Thank you for your participation.

By Selecting "I agree" you are consenting to the conditions above:

I agree  
 I disagree

---

**Survey Introduction and Disclaimer:**

Welcome to the Community Preferences and Land Use Survey for Tarboro residents. Before you begin, it's important to note that this survey is part of a research project exploring potential uses for town-owned lots. Some of these lots may have been acquired through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which places certain restrictions on their reuse. These areas are typically designated for open spaces and environmental purposes, prohibiting the construction of new buildings.

This survey aims to gather your opinions on how these areas could be best utilized within the specified regulations. Please keep in mind that any proposed use must align with FEMA's guidelines. Your input is valuable in shaping future plans for these areas. Thank you for your participation.

**What is your age group?**

18-34  
 35-54  
 55-64  
 65 or older

**How long have you lived in Tarboro?**

Less than 1 year  
 1-5 years  
 6-10 years  
 11-20 years  
 More than 20 years

**What is your current housing status?**

Homeowner  
 Renter  
 Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**How much do you agree/disagree with the sentence below?:**

|                                                                                                                           | Strongly Disagree        | Disagree                 | Neutral                  | Agree                    | Strongly Agree           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Land should be leased out and used by individuals or organizations next to the properties, such as churches or residents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town of Tarboro develops greenways using this land                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The land should be used as a community gathering place for nearby neighborhoods.                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Please rate the most important aspects of the reuse of this land, in your opinion.**

|                         | Not at all Important     | Slightly Important       | Important                | Extremely Important      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maintenance             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community use           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural environment     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sense of community      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Appearance & Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safety & Security       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Rank the following reuses that you would prefer for these lands from 1 to 4:**

\_\_\_ Leasing for individual use  
\_\_\_ Community Garden  
\_\_\_ Dog Park  
\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**As a citizen, in what capacity are you interested in being involved with the reuse of this land? (Select all that apply)**

Attending town hall meetings  
 Volunteering your time to be involved  
 Encouraging others to get involved  
 I would not like to be involved

Figure 4: Community Preferences Land Use Survey

## Survey Results

Of the 20 surveys distributed to stakeholders in Tarboro, 16 were returned, indicating an 80% completion rate. The following summarizes the survey results:

### Q1: What is your age group?

50% of respondents belonged to the 35 to 56 age group, 18.75% were aged 18 to 34, 18.75% were aged 55 to 64, and only 12.50% were 65 years or older. Thus, most respondents were working-age citizens.

### Q2: How long have you lived in Tarboro?

A majority (62.50%) of respondents reported residency in Tarboro for over 20 years, indicating insights predominantly from long-term residents, familiar with the town's context.

### Q3: What is your current housing status?

Among the 16 respondents, only one was a renter, while the remainder were homeowners, suggesting a vested interest in the community.

#### Q4: How much do you agree/disagree with the sentence below?

Regarding preferred land uses, the statement advocating leasing the land to individuals or organizations received unanimous agreement, with 9 respondents selecting "agree" and 3 choosing "strongly agree." This statement received the most positive feedback overall, with only 6 respondents feeling neutral about it.

Conversely, the idea of developing greenways garnered mixed responses, including one "strongly disagree," despite 9 agreeing and 3 strongly agreeing. The second statement - "the town of Tarboro develops greenways using this land" - was the only statement to receive one "strongly disagree" response. However, the concept of utilizing the land as a community gathering space received predominantly positive feedback. Only 1 person disagreed with this at all, nobody strongly disagreed, 5 were neutral, and 7 agreed while 3 strongly agreed.

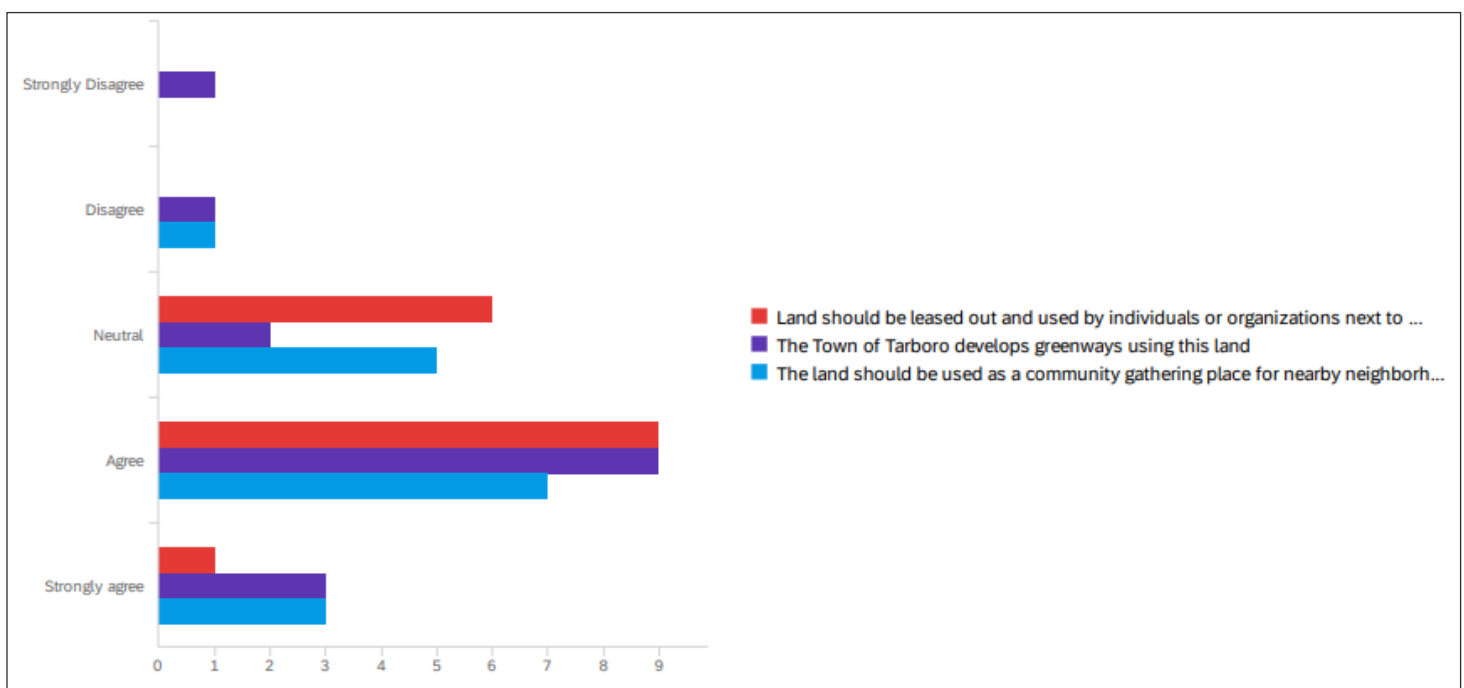


Figure 5: Survey Question 4 Results

#### Q5: Please rate the most important aspects of the reuse of this land, in your opinion.

Respondents rated several aspects of the land reuse: Maintenance Community Use, Natural Environment, Sense of Community, Appearance & Aesthetics, and Safety & Security. Responses conclude that safety & security, and appearance & aesthetics are key aspects of land reuse in the opinions of respondents. While the "natural environment" was deemed less important, it remains a crucial consideration. Additionally, fostering a sense of community emerged as significant, with 13 respondents considering it important and 2 rating it extremely important.



Table 1: Survey Question 5 Results

| # | Field                   | Not at all important | Slightly important | Important | Extremely Important | Total |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 | Maintenance             | 0.00% 0              | 0.00% 0            | 56.25% 9  | 43.75% 7            | 16    |
| 2 | Community Use           | 0.00% 0              | 18.75% 3           | 62.50% 10 | 18.75% 3            | 16    |
| 3 | Natural Environment     | 6.25% 1              | 18.75% 3           | 50.00% 8  | 25.00% 4            | 16    |
| 4 | Sense of community      | 0.00% 0              | 6.25% 1            | 81.25% 13 | 12.50% 2            | 16    |
| 5 | Appearance & Aesthetics | 0.00% 0              | 6.25% 1            | 25.00% 4  | 68.75% 11           | 16    |
| 6 | Safety & Security       | 0.00% 0              | 0.00% 0            | 25.00% 4  | 75.00% 12           | 16    |

**Q6: Rank the following reuses that you would prefer for these lands from 1 to 4:**

When asking residents to rank options for land reuses on a scale from 1 to 4 - with one being the most favorable and four being the least favorable - respondents collectively rated community garden as the number 1. Leasing the land was the second most agreed upon option, a dog park was the 3rd, and the “other” was the 4th, with some suggestions of various options such as soccer parks, disc golf/frisbee parks, and pop-up flea markets.

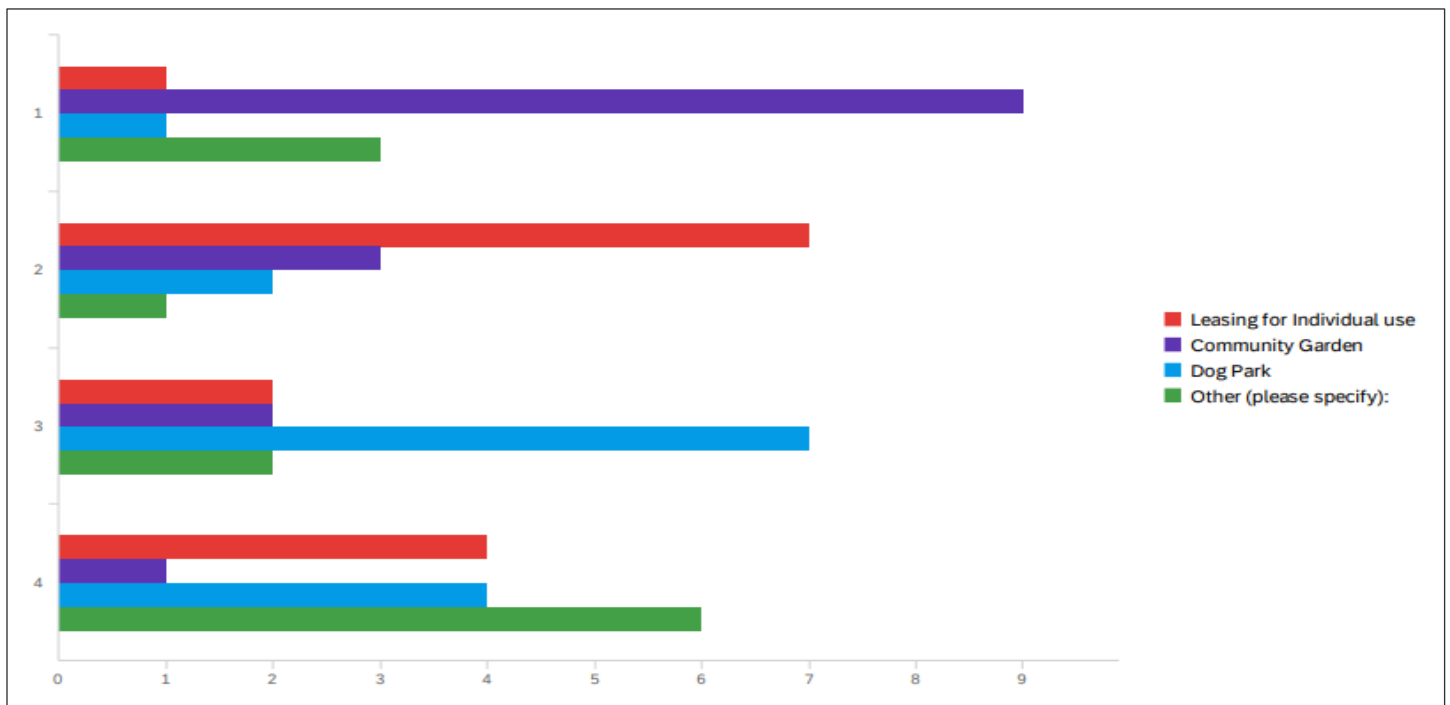


Figure 6: Survey Question 6 Results

**Q7: As a citizen, in what capacity are you interested in being involved with the reuse of this land? (Select all that apply).**

Only 2 respondents expressed disinterest in involvement with land reuse efforts, while the majority indicated willingness to volunteer their time or support the initiative in some capacity.

The overwhelming preference for leasing the land to individuals or organizations, coupled with strong support for community gathering spaces, highlights the community's desire for active engagement and utilization of these properties. Additionally, the high ranking of community gardens as the most preferred land reuse option highlights the community's interest in promoting sustainable and community-oriented initiatives. These findings align closely with the recommendations put forth, emphasizing the implementation of a community garden, leasing to adjoining individuals, and the establishment of a disc golf park.

## Consulting Local Stakeholders

Discussions with key stakeholders and community leaders, employed with the Town of Tarboro and an area non-profit. Travis Stigge, Director of Parks and Recreation, shed light on the difficulty of engaging with a community that exhibits low levels of participation. Catherine Grimm, Planning Director, highlighted health issues persisting in Edgecombe County, attributing them to a lack of activity and the presence of food deserts. She mentioned the "Get Off the List" movement within county leadership, driven by Edgecombe's low health ranking, currently at 99th out of 100 counties. Additionally, Grimm provided a timeline insight, revealing that the buyout process for Hurricane Matthew began in 2016 and concluded with document closures in February 2024, initially involving the buyout of 14 structures.

Aerhealle Chance is the assistant director of the Freedom Organization (Freedom Org), a Community Development Corporation dedicated to investing in disinvested communities with a focus on Edgecombe county and creating self-sustaining communities. The Freedom Org has partnered with the Town of Tarboro to establish a community garden on some of the bought-out land. A similar plan adopted by the Town of Princeville, which the Freedom Organization contributed to, serves as the foundation for their initiatives in Tarboro.

Chace highlighted the community garden initiative's multi-layered approach, incorporating rain gardens and pollinator gardens. The objective is to enhance fresh food accessibility through nature-based solutions while establishing an educational space for community members, including children/students interested in learning about food cultivation. Situated on both sides of E. Saint James Street in East Tarboro, the garden repurposes buyout properties in the area. Recently, the Freedom Org initiated community workdays focused on building up the topsoil. Funding for the initiative includes a grant from UNC Chapel Hill's Community Connections Program and partnerships with other organizations and entities.

These conversations provided valuable context for understanding the community's dynamics and challenges, informing the project's direction and recommendations.

# Recommendations



# Recommendations

After careful examination and understanding of the needs and desires of the town of Tarboro, the following recommendations are the most suitable for the reuse of FEMA buyout properties in Tarboro.

## 1: Leasing adjoining property owners

With public officials having voiced concerns regarding the significant maintenance responsibilities shouldered by the city, it is imperative to consider strategies to alleviate this strain while optimizing the utility of acquired properties. One promising recommendation is leasing out some of the properties to adjoining individuals or groups.



*Figure 7: His Majesty's Church Adjacent to Buyout Properties*

In the process of finalizing a lease agreement, Tarboro must ensure that future needs, like easements, are accommodated. Lease terms often span 5 to 10 years, with a nominal fee set at \$1.00 per year, paid by the lessee. The city retains the flexibility to adjust lease durations and fees on a case-by-case basis, allowing for tailored solutions to specific circumstances. Once leased, the city will

transfer usage rights to the lessee, who will be responsible for adhering to the restrictions imposed by FEMA and maintaining the property in compliance with city regulations.

Priority for leasing should be given to adjoining property owners to ensure proper maintenance. This arrangement benefits both Tarboro and the lessee by providing additional space for various uses while relieving the city of maintenance responsibilities. Lessees may use this property for parking, yard space, gardening, and other non-structural reuses. Interested parties will need to complete a HMGP Lease Application Form through the Town of Tarboro. Upon approval, a formal lease agreement will be executed, transferring maintenance responsibility to the lessee. Failure to maintain the property as outlined in the lease agreement may lead to the revocation of the lease by the city.

## 2: Community Garden

Considering that survey respondents ranked the option of a community garden as number 1 and the town of Tarboro has encouraged a partnership with the Freedom Org, the recommendation to establish a community garden in partnership with the Freedom Org. serves as a feasible recommendation. Building on the Freedom Org's successful implementation of a community garden in Princeville, this initiative promises to address

Tarboro's pressing need for sustainable land reuse while promoting health and community engagement. Tarboro aims to combat food insecurity, foster healthier lifestyles, and enhance environmental sustainability. Through this partnership and resident involvement, a community garden may serve as hub for education while strengthening community involvement.



*Figure 8: Portion of Buyout Properties chosen for Community Garden Initiative*

## 5: Open/ Unbothered Space

Designating certain clusters of buyout properties as open or unbothered space provides an opportunity for the land to exist in its natural state. This designation is particularly suitable for parcels located farthest from the core of Tarboro and deeply entrenched within the effective flood zone. Preserving these areas in their undisturbed state benefits both the public and the environment, ensuring minimal human interference and allowing natural ecosystems to thrive.

## 4: Additional Greenway/Park Space

Utilizing some parcels as additional greenway and park space presents a practical solution, especially for those adjacent to existing greenways, trails, and park areas. Incorporating these properties into the town's greenway system not only enhances public access but also optimizes maintenance efforts already undertaken by the town of Tarboro. By merging with existing parks and greenways, these spaces can serve a more significant purpose to the community. Furthermore, this option allows for a gradual transition, offering flexibility as these areas continue to function as open space until formal conversion into greenway or parkland is feasible.



# Town of Tarboro Flood Land Reuse Locations

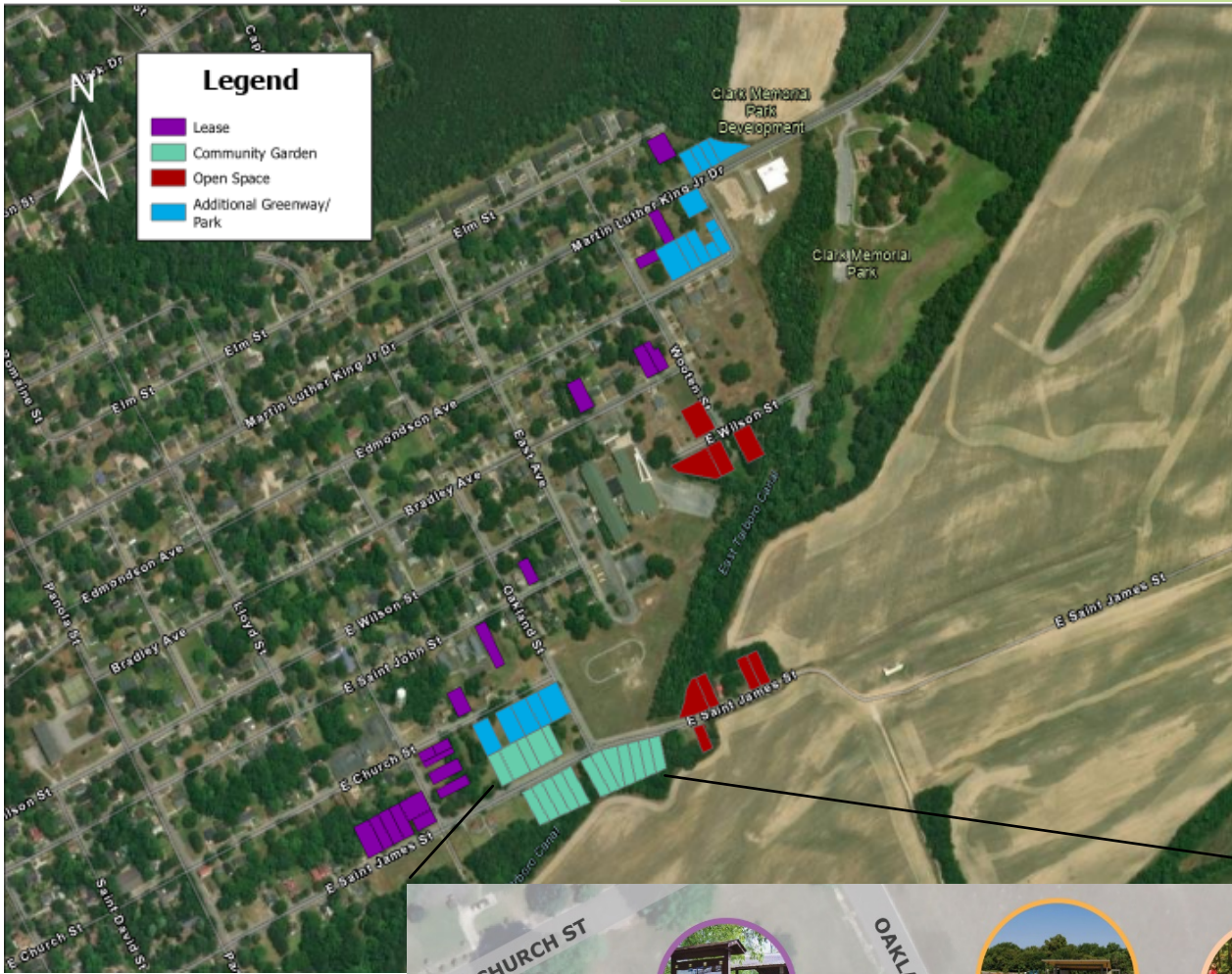


Figure 9: Suggested Locations for Recommended Reuses



Figure 10: Detailed Concept Map of Freedom Org. Community Garden Initiative (Source: Brittany Clark)

# Funding Options for Implementation

**The Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP):** In addition to partnering with non-profit organizations such as the Freedom Org, a potential funding avenue for establishing a community garden is the CFPCGP offered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program aims to unite stakeholders across different sectors of the food system to enhance understanding of national food security trends and improve local food systems. Emphasizing the importance of addressing food and nutrition insecurity, particularly among vulnerable populations, projects funded by CFPCGP should strive to ensure consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods for all Americans. Priority is given to applications from organizations working to combat food insecurity in rural, Tribal, and historically underserved communities.

**The Recreational Trails Program (RTP):** RTP offers an opportunity to secure funding for the development and maintenance of a greenway or park in Tarboro. Administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), RTP grants support the construction of recreational trails and related facilities. In Tarboro's case, RTP funding could cover expenses such as trail development, signage, and amenities, as well as ongoing maintenance tasks like mowing. By leveraging RTP grants, Tarboro can realize its goal of establishing a greenway or park, expanding recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

## Case Studies: Successful Implementation

### The City of Greenville, NC

On January 8, 2004, the city of Greenville, NC adopted a flood land reuse plan for the acquired properties from the buyout program conducted after hurricane Floyd.

Greenville has effectively implemented various reuses of FEMA buyout lots through its City of Greenville Flood Land Reuse Plan, demonstrating significant positive outcomes. The city has maximized the potential of these properties, resulting in the creation of a well-utilized greenway enjoyed by citizens. By offering adjacent property owners the opportunity to lease these spaces for parking, gardening, or other personal uses, Greenville

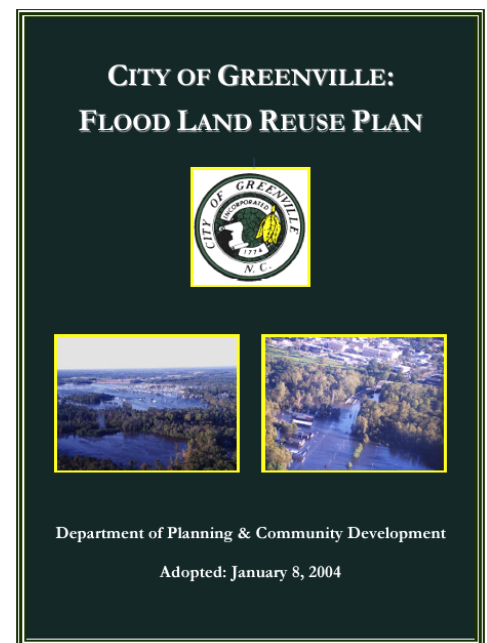


Figure 11: City of Greenville Flood Land Reuse Plan



has effectively alleviated some of the maintenance burdens on the city. These initiatives maintain compliance with both FEMA restrictions and the city of Greenville's regulations, showcasing a successful and sustainable approach to land reuse.

## The Town of Princeville, NC

Utilizing vacant lots for community gardening has proven to be a favorable approach in repurposing properties. The town of Princeville, NC adopted this strategy in 2020. With FEMA restrictions permitting the leasing or donation of acquisition properties to groups or organizations capable of effectively overseeing the land in compliance with all established regulations, this is a great alternative. By adopting this approach, municipal staff can alleviate maintenance burdens while promoting local agriculture. Princeville's stands as a noteworthy example of this reuse of land and provides valuable insights for formulating lease agreements, parcel maintenance protocols, and strategies for fostering community gardens as well as the establishment of a Princeville Farmers Market. Given the similarities in history and context between Princeville - Tarboro's neighboring town - and Tarboro, Tarboro is likely to experience similar positive outcomes from such initiatives.



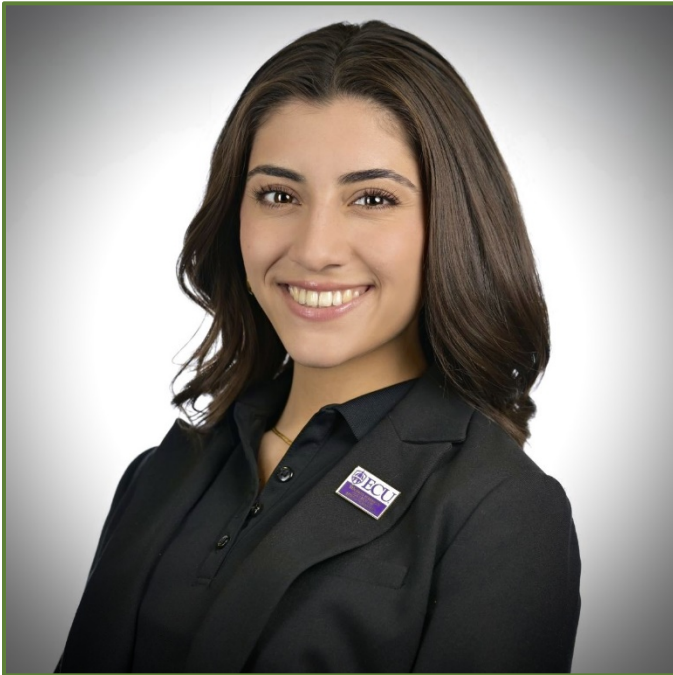
Figure 12: Princeville Community Floodprint

## Conclusion

Tarboro faces the challenge of making decisions regarding the reuse of lands acquired through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) following hurricanes Floyd and Matthew. Through comprehensive research methods, including community surveys and stakeholder consultations, valuable insights have been gained into the community's preferences and needs.

The research findings highlight a strong community preference for land reuse options such as community gardens, leasing to adjoining individuals, open space, and additional greenway or park space. These preferences align closely with Tarboro's overarching goals of sustainable growth, community engagement, and environmental preservation. Consultations with stakeholders have shed light on the fiscal and logistical challenges associated with property maintenance, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions and collaborative partnerships.

Drawing inspiration from successful implementation models in neighboring towns like Greenville and Princeville, Tarboro is positioned to transform acquired properties into vibrant community assets. By leveraging available funding options and prioritizing inclusive decision-making processes, Tarboro can navigate this obstacle with resilience and foresight, ultimately shaping a brighter future for its residents.



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## **Catherine W. Grimm - Project Sponsor**

Director of the Planning & Building Inspections, Town of Tarboro, NC

# Resources

- Adeniji, N. (2023, April). Background Information of Tarboro Town. Prepared for the Regional Integrated Science and Assessment (RISA) Project: Intended and Unintended Consequences of Buyout Programs as an Adaptive Response to Compound Flood Events and Coastal Inundation Risk in Rural Communities.
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