MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BETHEL TOWN HALL
October 6, 2026

Present: Mayor Carl Wilson, Mayor Pro-Tem Camilla Griggs, Commissioner Cassandra Conger, Commissioner Elvis Jones, Commissioner Thomas Lilley, Commissioner Fred Whitehurst

Members of the Board Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim Town Manager, D. Scott Elliott, Attorney, Keen Lassiter, Clerk, Linda Sheppard, and Deputy Clerk, Jalissa Griggs.

Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Commissioner Jones gave the invocation. Commissioner Conger then led the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to approve the proposed agenda, Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting on September 1, 2026, with corrections to the General Statute reference on page 10, the time of Closed Session, adding the reason for going into Closed Session, and the motion to reconvene regular session on page 11, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Steve Allen of Pitt County Inspections at 1717 W 5th St, Greenville, NC gave an update on the condemnation process of seven Bethel residences located as follows: 191 Railroad Street, 190 West Andrews Street, 202 West Washington Street, 163 West Church Street, 3705 Woolard Street, 170 Crawford Street, and 3708 Briley Street. Interim Town Manager added that these structures will be either torn down by the Town or burned by the Bethel Fire Department and a subsequent lien added to the property.

Presentations

District Attorney Farris Dixon:
District Attorney Farris Dixon provided an update regarding the operation of the District Attorney's Office. He highlighted on the Pitt County Veterans Treatment Court, which was established in January and is operating successfully. The program serves veterans involved in the criminal justice system who are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse challenges and provides services tailored to the unique needs of veterans. Referrals may be made by any participant in the justice system, including law enforcement officers. Mr. Dixon also recognized

Commissioner Whitehurst for his legal and federal law enforcement experience and his service representing matters in federal court.

Mr. Dixon reviewed several organizational improvements implemented since taking office in 2019. These improvements include increasing the number of Assistant District Attorneys from twelve to fifteen, expanding support staff from nine to twelve positions, enhancing office facilities to accommodate growth, and modernizing operations through technology upgrades and improvements to the discovery process.

Mr. Dixon highlighted the office's performance and caseload statistics, noting that Pitt County averages approximately 204 days to resolve felony cases and 103 days to resolve misdemeanor cases, ranking among the state's leaders in timely case resolution. He discussed the significant impact of body-worn camera footage on case preparation and discovery review, which has increased workload demands and highlighted the need for additional staffing resources.

Mr. Dixon also addressed recent legislative changes that have contributed to increased jail populations and the resulting challenges in managing case flow efficiently. Additionally, he discussed the statewide difficulty of recruiting and retaining attorneys in rural areas of Eastern North Carolina. He commended local elected officials and community leaders for fostering a high quality of life that helps attract professionals and families to Pitt County, supporting the office's ongoing recruitment and retention efforts.

Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League:
LaChauncey Staton with the Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League (PCYALL) presented an overview of the organization's mission to expand youth recreation opportunities in Bethel and communities north of the river (Attachment A). Mr. Staton, a Bethel native and retired law enforcement officer, spoke about the importance of providing structured recreational activities, positive mentorship, and safe environments for local youth.

Mr. Staton stated that the organization plans to work with Pitt County Schools, Pitt County Recreation and community partners to address what he described as a lack of recreational investment in the Bethel area. The League's goal is to restore and expand youth athletic opportunities through partnerships with local schools, churches, community organizations, and the Bethel Youth Activity Center.

The proposed program would begin with youth basketball and eventually expand to include additional seasonal sports such as volleyball, flag football, tackle football, soccer, tennis, and golf. Mr. Staton emphasized that the initiative would operate as a volunteer-led organization with no payroll expenses and would utilize existing facilities, including school gyms, church facilities, and community recreation spaces, minimizing costs.

He stated that the League seeks to provide accessible programs regardless of a family's financial circumstances and will work to secure sponsorships and donations to offset participation costs.

The organization requested the Town's endorsement and assistance in coordinating access to local facilities and community partnerships. Mr. Staton emphasized that no financial contribution or budget allocation was being requested from the Town.

The Mayor encouraged residents to support the program, noting its potential to provide positive activities and mentorship opportunities for local youth and emphasizing the need for volunteers, coaches, mentors, and community participation. Commissioner Conger requested that the organization provide periodic updates on its progress and inform the Town of any opportunities for collaboration.

Commissioner Jones asked about its length of establishment and Mr. Staton explained that the organization has been active for approximately eighteen years under a different name and is currently undergoing a rebranding effort, transitioning from a police-based organization to a community-based organization.

Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool:
Sam Matney, Intern with the Mid-East Commission, presented information regarding the North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool, developed through a partnership with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). He explained that the Mid-East Commission serves municipalities in Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt Counties and provides assistance with grant applications, resiliency planning, infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and aging services.

Mr. Matney explained that the Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool is an online decision-support resource designed to assist municipalities with identifying flood resiliency and stormwater improvement projects and connecting those projects with potential funding opportunities. The tool is intended to help reduce flooding risks, lessen flood impacts, and improve community recovery following flood events.

Mr. Matney reviewed the public-access features of the tool, including community profiles, flood risk mapping, floodplain data, critical infrastructure mapping, housing and demographic information, and a repository of mitigation strategies (Attachment B). He further explained that municipalities with NCID access may utilize an advanced version of the tool to create action plans and submit projects for consideration for future funding opportunities. He stated that the Mid-East Commission is available to assist municipalities by entering projects into the system on their behalf.

Mr. Matney discussed stormwater and drainage projects that may qualify for funding consideration through the Blueprint Tool, including ditch improvements, culvert replacements, pipe rehabilitation and replacement, stormwater drainage improvements, and green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens, bioretention cells, constructed wetlands, and permeable pavement.

Mr. Matney referenced both an East Carolina University stormwater study (Attachment C) and the Rivers & Associates Stormwater Asset Inventory and Management Plan (SWAMP). He stated that the SWAMP identified aging stormwater infrastructure and approximately five miles of drainage systems requiring maintenance or replacement. He further noted that the plan includes ten capital improvement projects with an estimated total cost of approximately $3.87 million and stated that with permission these projects can be entered into the Blueprint Tool for future funding consideration.

Interim Town Manager reminded the Board that the Capital Improvement Plan included in the presentation materials was adopted as part of the FY 2026-2027 Budget and was developed by Rivers & Associates as part of the Stormwater Asset Inventory and Management Plan. Interim Town Manager stated that Rivers & Associates continues to assist the Town in pursuing stormwater funding opportunities and that coordination among the Town, Rivers & Associates, and the Mid-East Commission would be beneficial.

Ben Williams of Rivers and Associates supported the idea for seeking all available grant opportunities and agreed that collaboration among the Town, Rivers & Associates, and the Mid-East Commission would strengthen future funding applications.

Interim Town Manager also provided an update on ongoing stormwater initiatives, noting that Rivers & Associates is continuing work on the Canal Project and is revising project designs based on recommendations from the recent stormwater workshop. A revised plan and cost estimate are anticipated to be presented to the Board in November. Additionally, Rivers & Associates is continuing its Stormwater Utility Rate Study, which will be presented to the Board upon completion.

Old Business

Resolution for Interlocal Agreement Between Town of Bethel and Pitt County-Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance:
Interim Town Manager noted that at the August 4, 2026 meeting, the Board approved the Interlocal Agreement establishing the arrangement between the Town and County for administration of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

As an additional step in documenting the arrangement and to comply with applicable North Carolina General Statutes, a resolution formally approving and authorizing the Agreement was required (See Attachment D).

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to approve document entitled Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Agreement for Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

CDBG-NR Housing Selection Committee Report:

The Board reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Housing Selection Committee for inclusion in the Town's 2026 Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) application. It was noted that the Housing Selection Committee met on September 29, 2026, to evaluate eligible properties and develop its recommendations. The Committee's recommended list of housing units was presented to the Board for consideration and approval (See Attachment E with correction noted to selection three of an address of "3738" Barnhill Street). The housing units under consideration are as follow:

1. Joann Purvis 173 Crawford Street
2. Tanesha Jenkins 151 Martin Street
3. Shelia Wilkens 3738 Barnhill Street
4. Mary Brown 3705 Briley Street

Alternates

1. Dora Thomas 134 Elm Street
2. Johnny Staton 141 Lincoln Street
3. David McCray 3856 Whitehurst Street

Commissioner Lilley asked if there was an update on the 2025 application. Ben Jones noted that no update is available and the Town continues to wait for the release of funding.

Commissioner Jones asked Ben Jones of Faltor Consulting whether the alternate applicants identified in the 2025 CDBG-NR application had been considered for inclusion in the 2026 application. The Interim Town Manager explained that because the Town submitted applications in consecutive years, including the 2025 alternates in the 2026 application could create complications if those applicants were later needed to fill vacancies or replace projects funded through the 2025 application.

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to approve the selection of four housing units to be replaced and also three additional units to be considered alternates, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board also discussed a request from Faltor Consulting regarding the Town's consideration of providing a local match as part of the 2026 CDBG-NR application. It was explained that CDBG-NR applications have become increasingly competitive in recent years and that, while local matches have not traditionally been required or commonly provided for Neighborhood Revitalization projects, a financial commitment from the Town could strengthen the application, earn additional evaluation points, and help distinguish the Town's application from competing applicants.

The Board considered providing a local match in the amount of 2.5% ($23,750) or 5% ($47,500) of the project cost.

Commissioner Whitehurst made motion to consider making a match of 5% ($47,500) to the Towns 2026 CDBG-NR application, Commissioner Lilley seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones with Faltor Consulting requested an original copy of a commitment letter to include with the application. Interim Town Manager directed staff to complete the commitment letter.

New Business

Southern Bank Credit Card Limit Increase:
The Interim Town Manager informed the Board that the Town maintains a credit card account with Southern Bank, the Town's banking institution, with a current credit limit of $7,500. The card is utilized by the Town and the Fire Department for operational purchases and travel-related expenses. He explained that the card is regularly reaching its credit limit before the monthly balance is paid, creating difficulties when Town officials or Fire Department personnel need to make authorized purchases or travel arrangements.

The Interim Town Manager reported that the credit card balance is paid in full each month and emphasized that the Town's finances remain in good standing. He noted that the Town's accounts are balanced and reconciled by the Town's contracted CPA, Beverly Stroud, and that the Board receives monthly financial reports detailing Town expenditures. He stated that financial operations remain transparent and well-managed.

To address the issue, the Interim Town Manager recommended increasing the Southern Bank credit card limit by $5,000, from $7,500 to $12,500. He advised that Southern Bank requires approval by the Board of Commissioners before the request can be submitted.

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to increase the Southern Bank credit card limit to $12,500, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation Recognizing Operation Green Light for Veteran's November 4-11, 2026:
The Interim Town Manager presented a proclamation recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans for the period of November 4-11, 2026 (Attachment F).

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to approve document entitled- "Proclamation Recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans November 4-11, 2026, Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports

Interim Town Manager:
The Interim Town Manager gave the Public Safety Report for the month of August 2026 (See Attachment G).

Interim Town Manager also gave the financial report for August 2026 (Attachment H).

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to approve the financial report for August 2026, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

It was announced that the next meeting will be held November 3, 2026.

An update was provided on the disposition of Town-owned properties. The sale of Parcel 9216 to Rambert Properties, LLC for $1,400 has progressed to closing. It was also reported that Geraldine Dixon-Brown has withdrawn her interest in acquiring Parcel 29604. Parcel 29604 was then informally offered to Mr. Rambert for $600 (his last bid amount). His decision is still pending.

The Interim Town Manager provided an update regarding correspondence received from the North Carolina Treasurer's Office on September 2, 2026, concerning the Town of Bethel's status on the Unit Assistance List (UAL). He explained that the letter referenced the Town's FY 2024-2025 audit; however, that audit was completed on time, received a clean opinion, and contained no findings. The Interim Town Manager noted that the Town remains on the UAL pending the completion and submission of one additional timely audit. He reported that the FY 2025-2026 audit has been completed by the Town's auditor and is expected to be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting. Based on discussions with state officials, he expressed confidence that the Town will be removed from the UAL following another successful and timely audit submission.

The Interim Town Manager further announced that the Strategic Economic Development Plan Committee will hold its first meeting on October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. He stated that invitations had been distributed and that additional information would be provided as the meeting date approaches.

At the Mayor's request, the Interim Town Manager explained the purpose of the Unit Assistance List. He stated that the North Carolina Local Government Commission places local governments on the UAL when they fail to submit annual financial audits in a timely manner. He explained that the Town's previous issue involved late audit submissions rather than financial mismanagement or audit findings. He noted that the Town had worked to bring all outstanding audits current, including completing multiple audits within a single year, and that the most recent audit was submitted on time. While on the UAL, the Town receives additional oversight and assistance from the Local Government Commission. He also noted that the Finance Officer is required to complete training related to municipal financial management and reporting responsibilities.

Fire Department

Commissioner Little provided an update on the Town's new fire truck. He reported that he, the Interim Town Manager, and two members of the Fire Department traveled to Ocala, Florida, to

inspect the vehicle. Following the inspection, several minor items requiring repair were identified. Commissioner Little stated that the truck was expected to arrive in Rocky Mount within the following week, where equipment from the Town's current truck would be transferred to the new apparatus. He anticipated that the new truck would be placed into service by the second or third week of November.

Commissioner Little explained that the new apparatus is a pumper truck designed primarily for use within Town limits where fire hydrants are available, although it will also be utilized in rural areas as needed. He reviewed the capabilities of the vehicle, including its 1,000-gallon water tank capacity and its role in fire suppression operations. He also discussed the Department's pumper-tanker and tanker apparatus, noting their larger water capacities and importance in mutual aid responses where water supply is critical.

Commissioner Little reported that the cost of the new fire truck was approximately $526,000, noting that fire apparatus costs have increased substantially over the years and that current delivery times for new fire trucks can range from 16 months to three years. He stated that the new truck would be a valuable asset to the Town and its residents and indicated that the Department plans to display the truck at a future Town Board meeting once it is placed into service.

Commissioner Little then presented the Fire Department activity report for August and September 2026 (See Attachment I).

He reported that the Department's apparatus fleet was generally operating well, with the exception of Truck 2106, which continues to experience issues with its brake and air systems. Repairs have been made to address recurring damage to an air valve located beneath the truck.

Commissioner Little also reported maintenance concerns at the Fire Department building, including roof leaks in several locations. He stated that estimates for repairs were being obtained and that preliminary inspections indicated the issues were likely related to deteriorated fasteners and seals with the metal roof rather than the need for a complete roof replacement.

Public Works

The Interim Town Manager reported that Public Works employees continue working on various projects throughout Town aimed at improving community appearance and maintenance. He also thanked Commissioner Whitehurst for assisting with the cleaning of gutters along Main Street and noted that additional gutter-cleaning efforts would continue as needed.

Town Attorney

The Town Attorney reminded the Board that a Closed Session was scheduled for the applicable statutes regarding attorney-client privilege and personnel matters and recommended adding an additional statutory reference pertaining to the review of closed session minutes to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information.

The Town Attorney also provided a follow-up update regarding the operation of modified utility vehicles on Town streets. He reviewed information previously presented to the Board, explaining that state law governs the registration and operation of such vehicles. Once a modified utility vehicle is properly registered with the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles and insured, it may be operated on streets with posted speed limits of 55 miles per hour or less, in accordance with state requirements.

He reported that Mr. Harris, who had addressed the Board at a previous meeting regarding difficulties registering his utility vehicle, contacted him shortly after the September meeting to report that his matter had been resolved. Mr. Harris advised that his vehicle had been inspected, registered, and issued license plates, allowing him to operate it legally. The Town Attorney stated that he was pleased the issue had been resolved quickly and noted that other residents interested in registering similar vehicles now have a clearer understanding of the process.

Closing Remarks

Commissioner Lilley expressed interest in serving on the Town's newly established Strategic Economic Development Plan Committee. The Interim Town Manager advised that committee membership remained open and that Commissioner Lilley could be added to the committee.

Commissioner Whitehurst addressed concerns regarding drainage and flooding throughout Town. He reported that he had recently assisted Public Works staff with cleaning gutters and storm drains and observed that grass clippings and other debris were being deposited into gutters and drainage systems following lawn maintenance activities. He emphasized that clogged drainage infrastructure can contribute to localized flooding and increase maintenance costs for the Town.

Commissioner Whitehurst suggested that the Board consider implementing an enforcement process to address the issue, including an initial warning followed by a potential fine for repeat violations. He indicated that he was not requesting Board action at that time but planned to discuss the matter further with fellow Commissioners and Town staff. He also encouraged residents to help keep gutters and drainage systems clear by speaking with neighbors and promoting community responsibility.

Commissioner Lilley announced that the Fire Department will conduct a live fire training exercise on October 25, 2026, at a residence located near the corner of Nelson Street and Whitehurst Street. He explained that the training would begin at approximately 8:00 a.m. and would provide firefighters with several hours of hands-on training before the structure was demolished by controlled burn. Residents were invited to observe the training exercise.

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to recess the Town Board meeting at 7:32pm as well as convene the Closed Session Meeting at 7:38pm for NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(1) CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED INFORMATION (3) ATTORNEY- CLIENT

PRIVELEGE AND (6) PERSONNEL, Commissioner Whitehurst seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lilley made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and return to Open Session at 7:51pm, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Board acknowledged receipt of Interim Town Manager's 9/1/26 resignation letter (See Attachment J).

Commissioner Conger made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to Agreement for Employment as Interim Town Manager, Commissioner Lilley seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously (See Attachment K).

Commissioner Conger made a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm, Commissioner Whitehurst seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

_____
Mayor, Carl Wilson

ATTEST:

_____
Linda Sheppard, Town Clerk

_____
Date

ATTACHMENT A

EMPOWERING TODAY'S YOUTH TO LEAD TOMORROW.

PC Y.A.L.L.
PITT COUNTY
YOUTH ATHLETICS LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

BUILDING LEADERS.
STRENGTHENING YOUTH.
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.

OUR MISSION

The Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League (PC-Y.A.L.L.) is dedicated to deweloping the whole youth—mind, bodyand character—through sports, education, mentorship, andleadership opportunities. We tstrive to create a positive and supportue environment where youth can grow, achieve, and becomo leaders in their communities.

WHAT WE DO

- YOUTH ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
- ACADEMIC SUPPORT & TUTORING
- MENTORSHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT
- PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

CONNECT WITH US!

pcy.a.l.l.26@gmail.com
P.O. Box 30496
Greenville, NC 27834
252-864-8533

FOLLOW US : ON FACEBOOK!
Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League
Stay connected for updatts, events, photos, and ways to get involved!

SCAN TO LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED!
SCAN ME

TOGETHER, WE CAN INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

Darrell Dorsey, President, Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League

September 16, 2026

Town Leadership & Community Stakeholders

Town of Bethel

Dear Community Leaders and Partners,

I am writing to formally propose the establishment of the Bethel Multi-Sport Youth League, a community-driven recreational initiative developed in direct partnership with the Bethel Youth Activity Center, designed to provide accessible, year-round athletic opportunities for the youth of Bethel.

Across our region, participation in youth sports has increasingly become hindered by rising equipment costs, expensive league fees, and limited facility access. For many working families, these financial barriers risk shutting children out of the invaluable physical, social, and developmental benefits that organized sports provide. We believe that every child in Bethel deserves the opportunity to play, learn teamwork, and build lifelong character regardless of economic circumstance.

The Bethel Multi-Sport Youth League addresses this challenge through a fiscally efficient, scalable model. By joining forces with the Bethel Youth Activity Center and utilizing existing public infrastructure—such as school fields, indoor gymnasiums, and green spaces—we eliminate costly facility rentals. Through shared equipment pools and volunteer-led mentorships anchored at the Center, we can offer a diverse rotation of sports including flag football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, tennis, and golf at an exceptionally low startup cost.

With a projected initial startup budget of under $700, this program can sustain itself through nominal community contributions and local business sponsorships, keeping registration fees under $15 per child and ensuring that no child is ever turned away.

I invite you to join us in investing in the future of Bethel's youth through this vital collaboration with the Bethel Youth Activity

Center. Whether through providing facility access, volunteering as a mentor, or offering foundational sponsorship, your partnership will help create a safe, active, and positive environment for our children to thrive. Thank you for your continued dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Darrell Dorsey, President, Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League

Building Champions on the Field, Leaders in the County

PITT COUNTY
YOUTH ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

Developing Athletes. Inspiring Leaders.

Stronger Together:
PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES



BUILDING LEADERS. CHANGING LIVES.

PC-Y.A.L.L. is committed to collaborating with local churches to pour into the next generation through mentorship, character development, and faith-based leadership. Together, we can make a lasting impact in our community.

WHY PARTNER WITH US?

SHARED MISSION
Aligning our efforts to develop strong leaders rooted in faith and values.

POSITIVE YOUTH IMPACT
Provide youth with mentoring, guidance, and opportunities to grow spiritually and athletically.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
Building stronger families, safer communities, and a brighter future.

SERVE TOGETHER
Create meaningful outreach and service opportunities that reflect Christ's love.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mentorship & Discipleship
Volunteer as a mentor or small group leader.

Facility & Resource Support
Share space, resources, and talents to support youth programs.

Outreach & Events
Partner on community events, camps, and service projects.

Prayer & Encouragement
Stand with us in prayer for our youth, coaches, and families.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
PROVERBS 27:17 (NIV)



LET'S BUILD A LEGACY OF FAITH, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE TOGETHER!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT.
PARTNER WITH US!

Email:
pcy.a.l.l26@gmail.com

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 30496
Greenville, North Carolina 27834

SCAN ME

SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED

Together, we can raise up leaders who will make a difference for Christ and our community!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League

FAITH • CHARACTER • LEADERSHIP • COMMUNITY

PC-Y.A.L.L. – WHERE YOUTH THRIVE AND LEADERS EMERGE!

PITT COUNTY
YOUTH ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

Developing Athletes. Inspiring Leaders.

PC-Y.A.L.L.
PITT COUNTY
YOUTH ATHLETICS LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

Community & Integrity
Build relationships, serve, and succeed

Sports
Develop athletic skills, sportsmanship, and teamwork through our coed sports leagues.

Holistic Development
Grow physically, mentally, and socially

Skill Building
Develop practical skills across multiple disciplines.

Programs Offered

Mentorship & Advising & Advising
Pairing youth with experienced guides and mentors.

Leadership Training
Comprehensive workshops on effective leadership

Life Skills Workshops
Practical skills to unlock potential and build confidence on and off the field.

Personal Peruinal Development
Individualized coaching for personal growth and self achievement.

NEW! Partnership with Churches
Working together with local churches to provide mentorship, character development, service opportunities, and a strong foundation of faith for our youth.

Join the Movement. REGISTER TODAY

Email: pcy.a.l.126@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30496
Greenville, North Carolina 27834

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League
@PittCountyYALL

SCAN ME

SCAN TO REGISTER

FAITH ★ CHARACTER ★ LEADERSHIP ★ COMMUNITY

STRONGER TOGETHER

ONE MISSION. ★ ONE COMMUNITY. ★ ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

PC Y.A.L.L.
PITT COUNTY
YOUTH ATHLETICS LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

&

BETHEL YOUTH
Activity Center
The Center for Science, Technology & Leadership Development

UNITING RESOURCES. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.



TWO ORGANIZATIONS. ONE COMMITMENT:
EMPOWERING YOUTH. BUILDING LEADERS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

OUR MISSION

We are committed to empowering youth by providing opportunities that build character, promote academic success, develop leadership, and encourage personal growth.

Through education, mentorship, technology, youth sports, and community engagement, we prepare young people to become responsible, respectful, and ready to lead in a changing world.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

Pitt County Youth Athletics Leadership League (PC-Y.A.L.L.) and Bethel Youth Activity Center – The Center for Science, Technology & Leadership Development have joined forces to provide youth with greater access to resources, programs, and positive opportunities.

Together, we provide a safe and supportive environment focused on education, technology, mentorship, life skills, youth sports, and leadership development to help every young person reach their full potential.

Together, we build brighter futures and stronger communities.

WHAT WE FOCUS ON

- **CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **ACADEMIC SUCCESS & TUTORING**
- **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION EDUCATION**
- **MENTORSHIP & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**
- **YOUTH SPORTS & RECREATION**
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE & POSTIVE ENGAGEMENT**
- **LIFE SKILLS & FUTURE PREPAREDNESS**

GET INVOLVED!

- ✔ Become a Volunteer
- ✔ Mentor a Youth
- ✔ Partner With Us
- ✔ Support Our Programs
- ✔ Make a Difference

PITT COUNTY Y.A.L.L.

252-864-8533
pcy.a.l.l26@gmail.com
P.O. Box 30496
Greenville, North Carolina 27834
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
Pitt County Youth Athletic Leadership League

BETHEL YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER

7449 Main St., Bethel, NC, United States, 27812
bethelyouthactivitycenter.com
(252) 818-0020
info@cstld.org
Bethel Youth Activity Center
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
Bethel Youth Activity Center

SCAN TO CONNECT

LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A STRONGER PITT COUNTY— WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED.

Summary of the Public User Features of the NCDEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool

- **You can scan the QR code on the last page of this document to view the full Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool Manual online.**

- **The information gathered here was taken from NCDEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool training videos which are publicly available on YouTube. The Blueprint tool is still being updated regularly and this document may need to be updated in the future as features are added to the tool.**

- **This resource was prepared by the Mid-East Commission.**

- **If you have any questions, please contact:**

Lee Padrick: lpadrick@mideastcom.org

Sam Matney: smatney@mideastcom.org

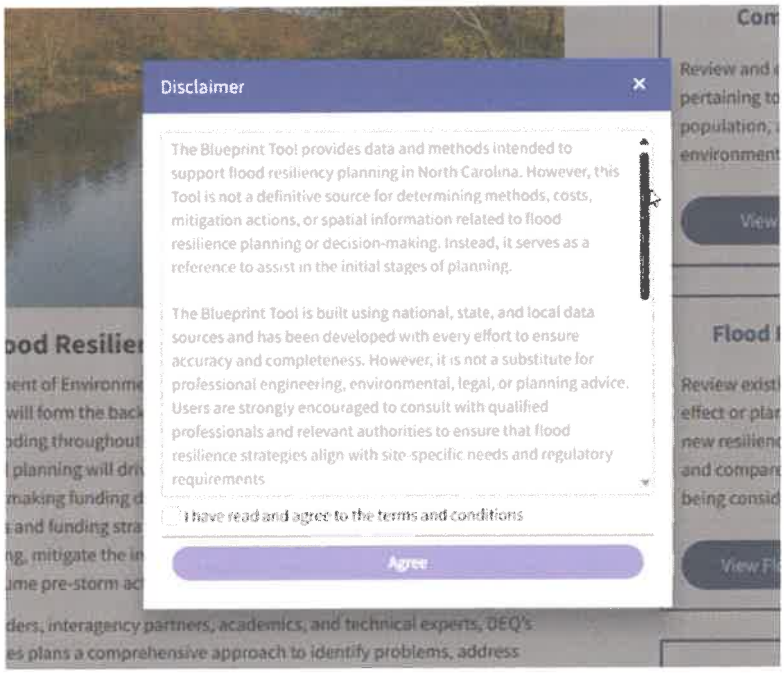
8. Public Users

- To enter the site, we'll click the "proceed as guest" button.

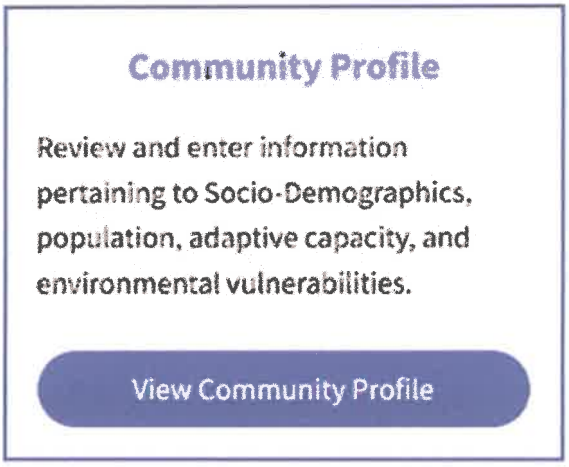


- A guest can access parts of the tool, but not everything. Let's do a quick walkthrough of the publicly available parts of the site.

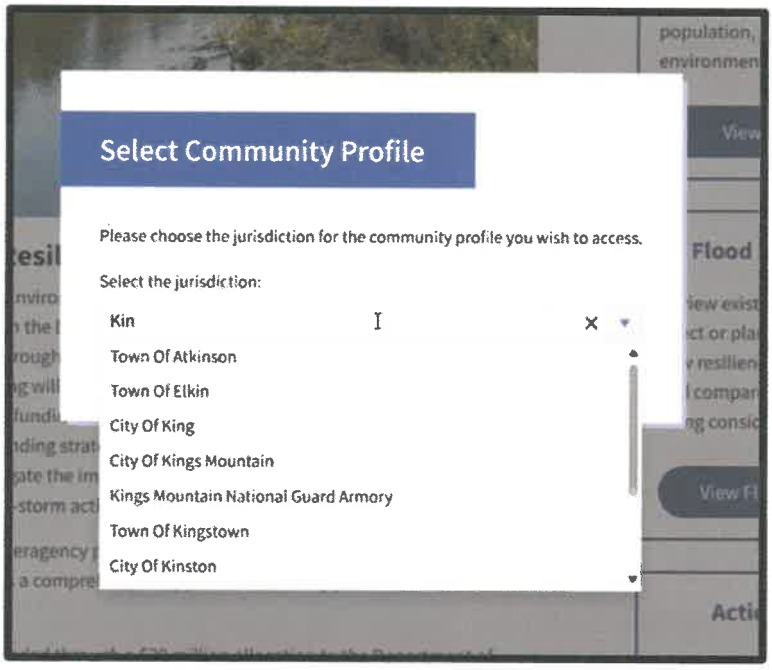
- To get started, please review the disclaimer. This will help you understand what to expect from the tool and what the limitations are.



- Next, click the checkbox to agree to the terms and conditions. Then, click the agree button.
- As a guest, you'll be able to access the community profile for all the jurisdictions in the state.

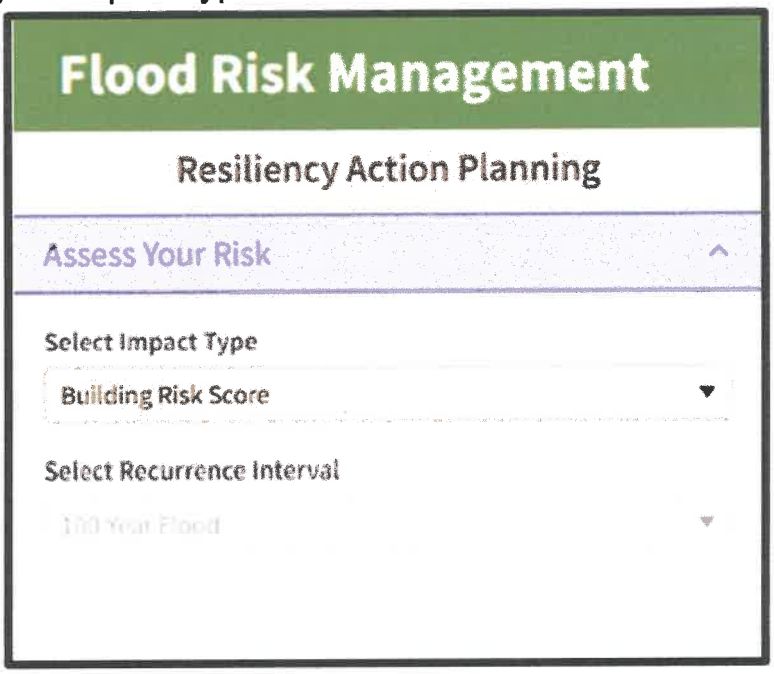


- In the community profile, you can see information about flood risk, demographics, and flood impacts at the community level.
- First, you'll select the jurisdiction you'd like to see from the drop down. There are a lot of jurisdictions, so a tip to get there more quickly is to start typing the name of the jurisdiction you'd like to see and pick from the filtered results below.



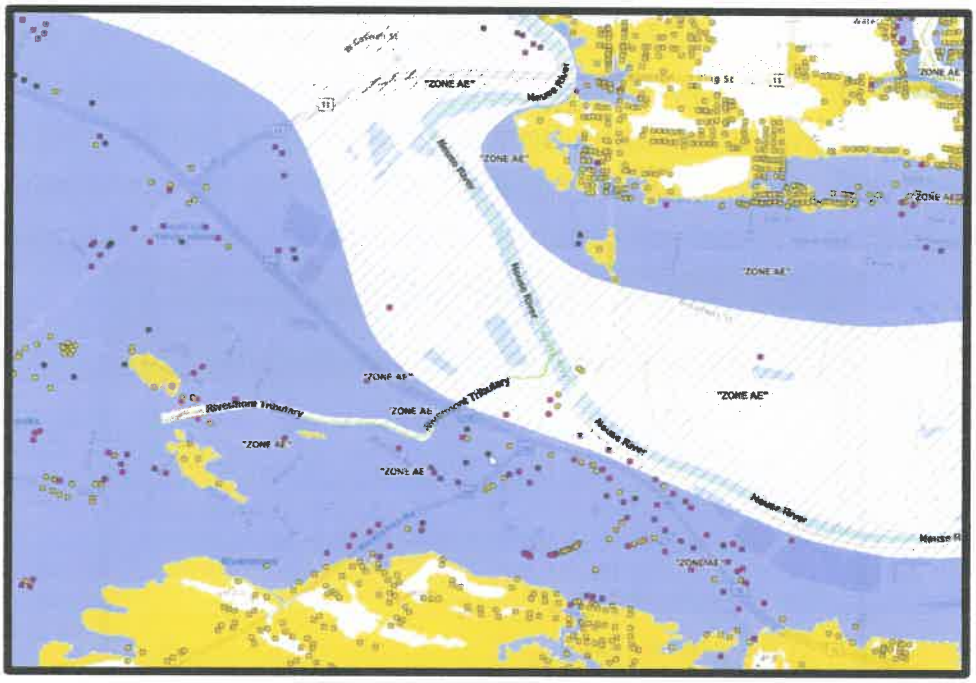
- As a public user guest, you'll be able to view but not add to or modify several geospatial data sets related to flood risk and resiliency.
- To learn more about specific community profile components, please see the community profile training videos starting with video number 3.0, or page 18 of this manual.

- Next, we'll explore the flood risk management page. This option provides tools to assess your flood risk. These tools expand on the flood risk summary graphs from the community profile. You can explore the geographic distribution of flood risk in a jurisdiction by selecting an impact type and recurrence interval where applicable.



- By zooming into the map, we can view structural footprints that use a color gradient symbology to represent the selected impact type.





- We can select individual buildings on the map to view its specific risk score, estimated impacts of flooding, building elevation, and other characteristics.

Building Details

Building ID: 3710720603

Parcel ID: 4524-16-7768

Risk Score: 5.9

Impacts

Annualized Loss Estimate: **$41,112**

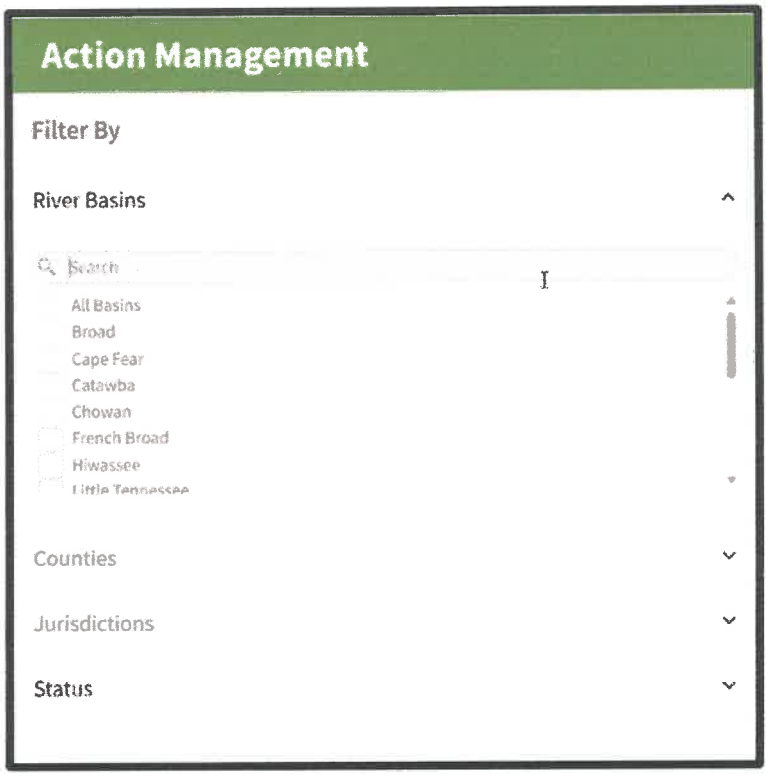
Recurrence Interval	Flood Depth vs FFE (ft)	Structural Cost	Contents Cost	30-Year Probability
10-year Flood	-3.2 Ft	$0	$0	16%
25-year Flood	-1.6 Ft	$0	$0	41%
50-year Flood	-0.2 Ft	$608,000	$0	58%
100-year Flood	1.1 Ft	$1,524,000	$410,000	82%
500-year Flood	4.1 Ft	$2,969,000	$1,031,000	100%

Building Elevation

Building Characteristics

Close

- As a public user, the next thing we can access is the action management page. Here we can review resiliency actions that have been submitted to NCDEQ for consideration and those that have been prioritized and included in the River Basin action strategy.

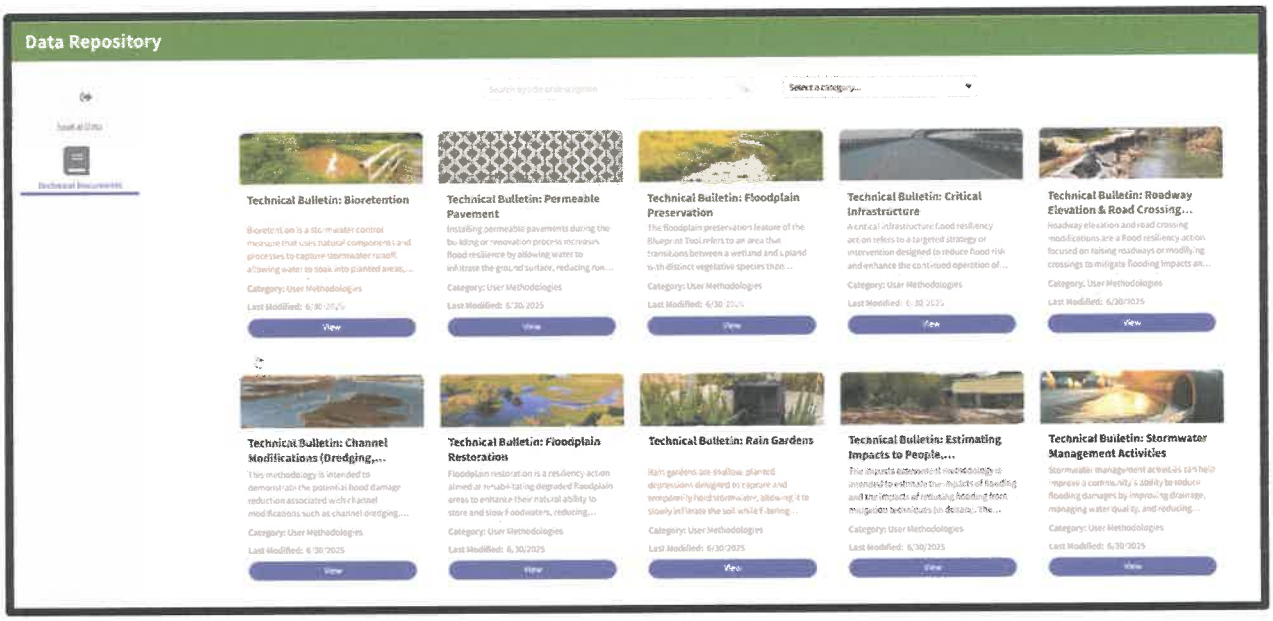


- To learn more about specific action management, filtering, downloads, and other components, please see the action management summary training video number 6.1 (or page 157 of this manual).

- In the data repository, you can download geospatial data sets unique to the blueprint tool that were created to support various tool functions like the impact assessment and suitability layers for specific nature-based solution resiliency actions.

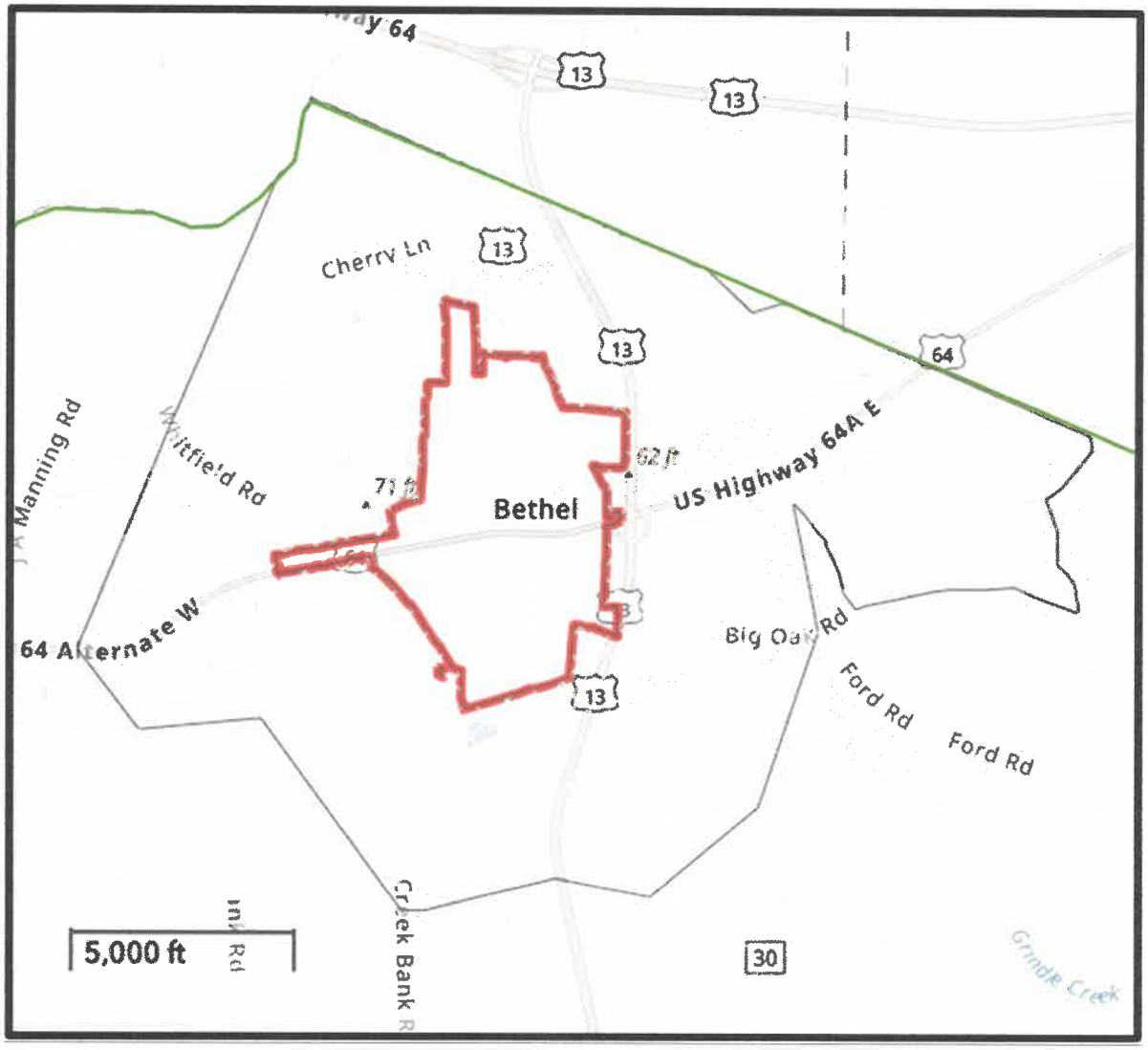


- You can also download technical documents to review background information on the methods supporting resiliency actions and different tool components.



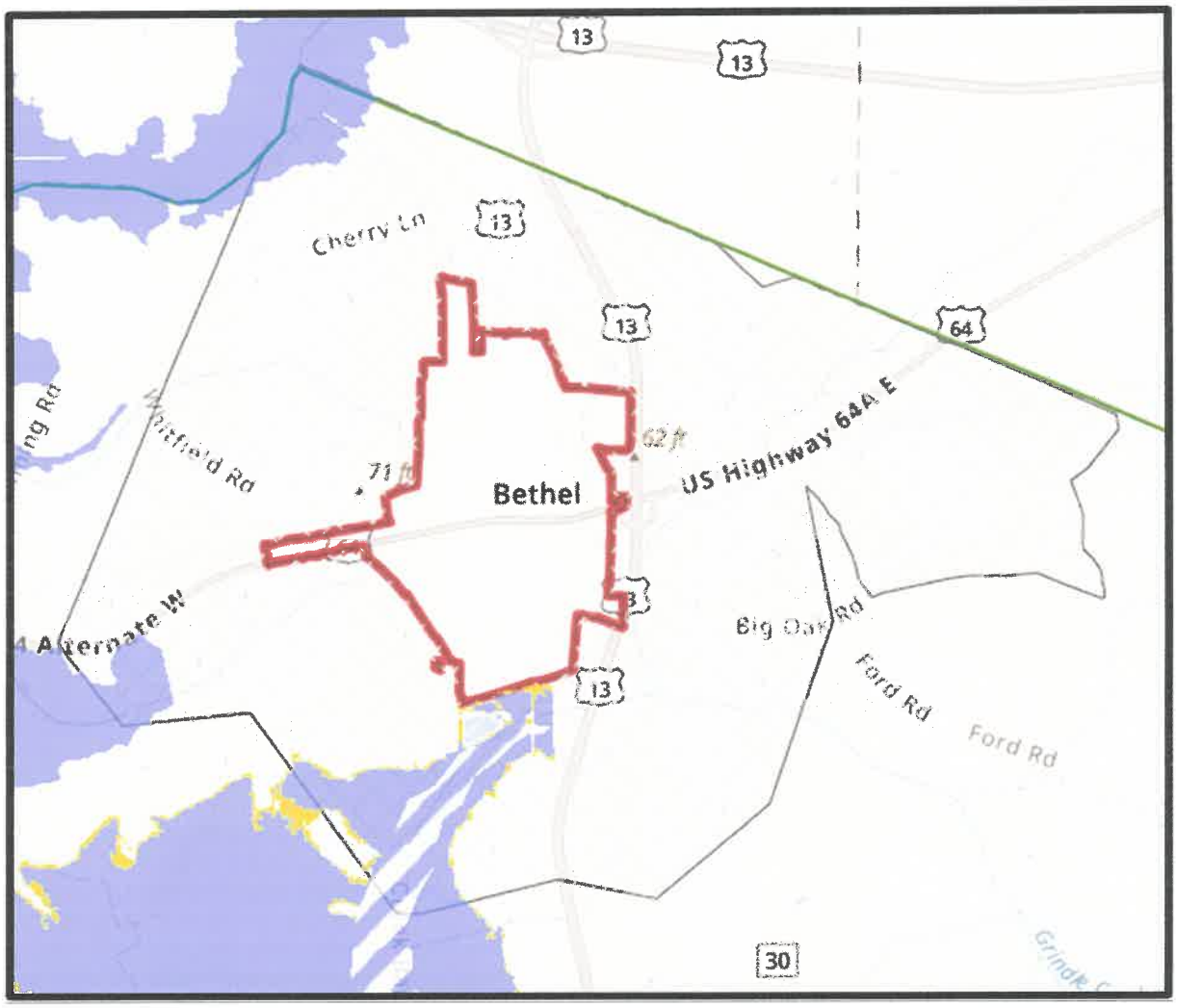
- To learn more about how to access resources in the data repository, please see the data repository training video number 7.0 (or page 170 of this manual).

Town of Bethel



Elevation of the Town of Bethel is approximately 53 - 68 feet above sea level

Floodplain

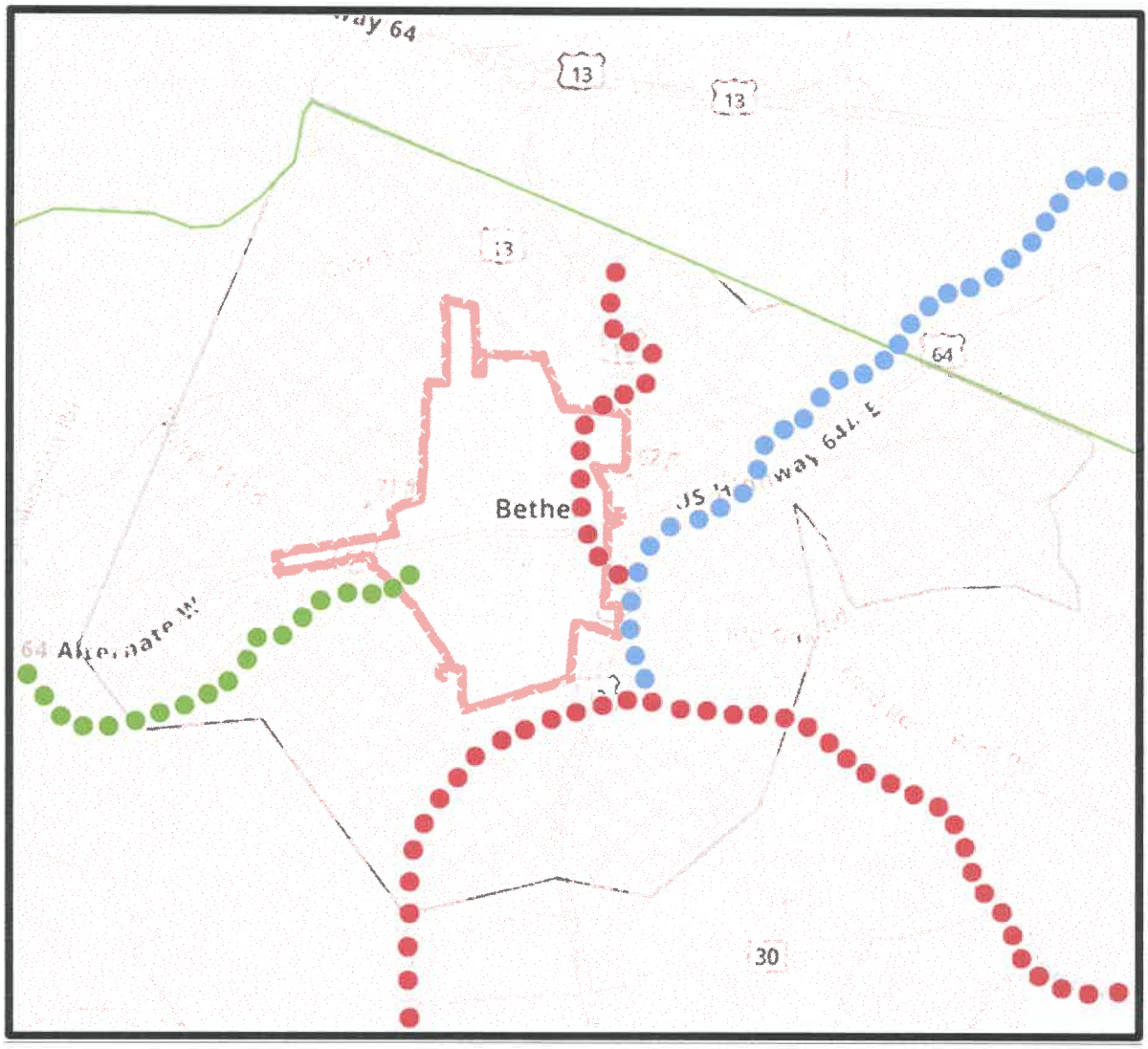


100-year floodplain (Zone AE)
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Conditions

Floodway - Stream Channel

500-year floodplain
0.2% Annual Chance of Flood Hazard Conditions

- 2 structures in the 500-year floodplain (both in the ETJ)
- 13 structures in the 100-year floodplain (all in the ETJ)



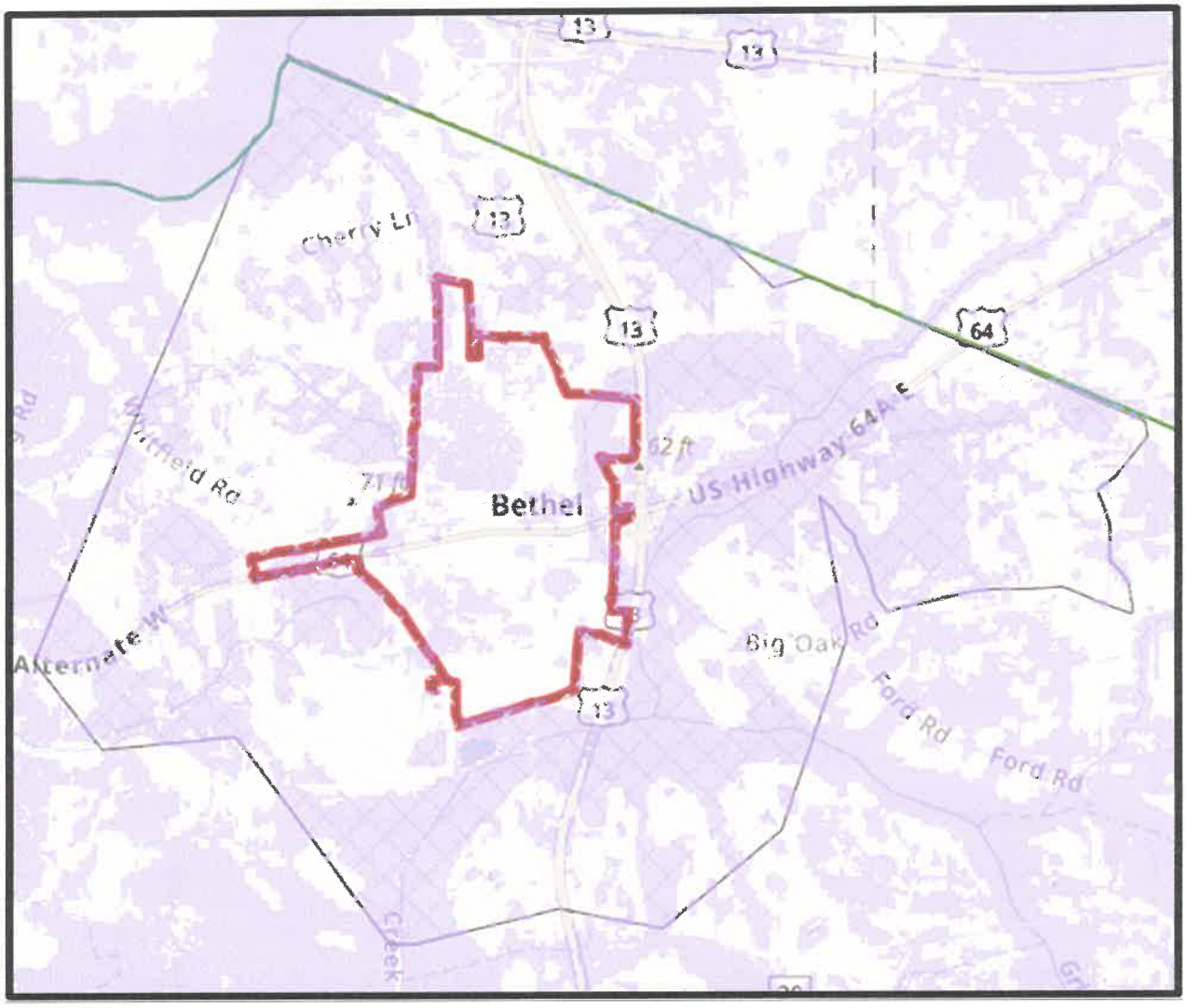
Suggs Branch

Thomas Canal

Grindle Creek

The main bodies of water affecting the Town of Bethel and the extra territorial jurisdiction are Grindle Creek, Suggs Branch Creek, and Thomas Canal

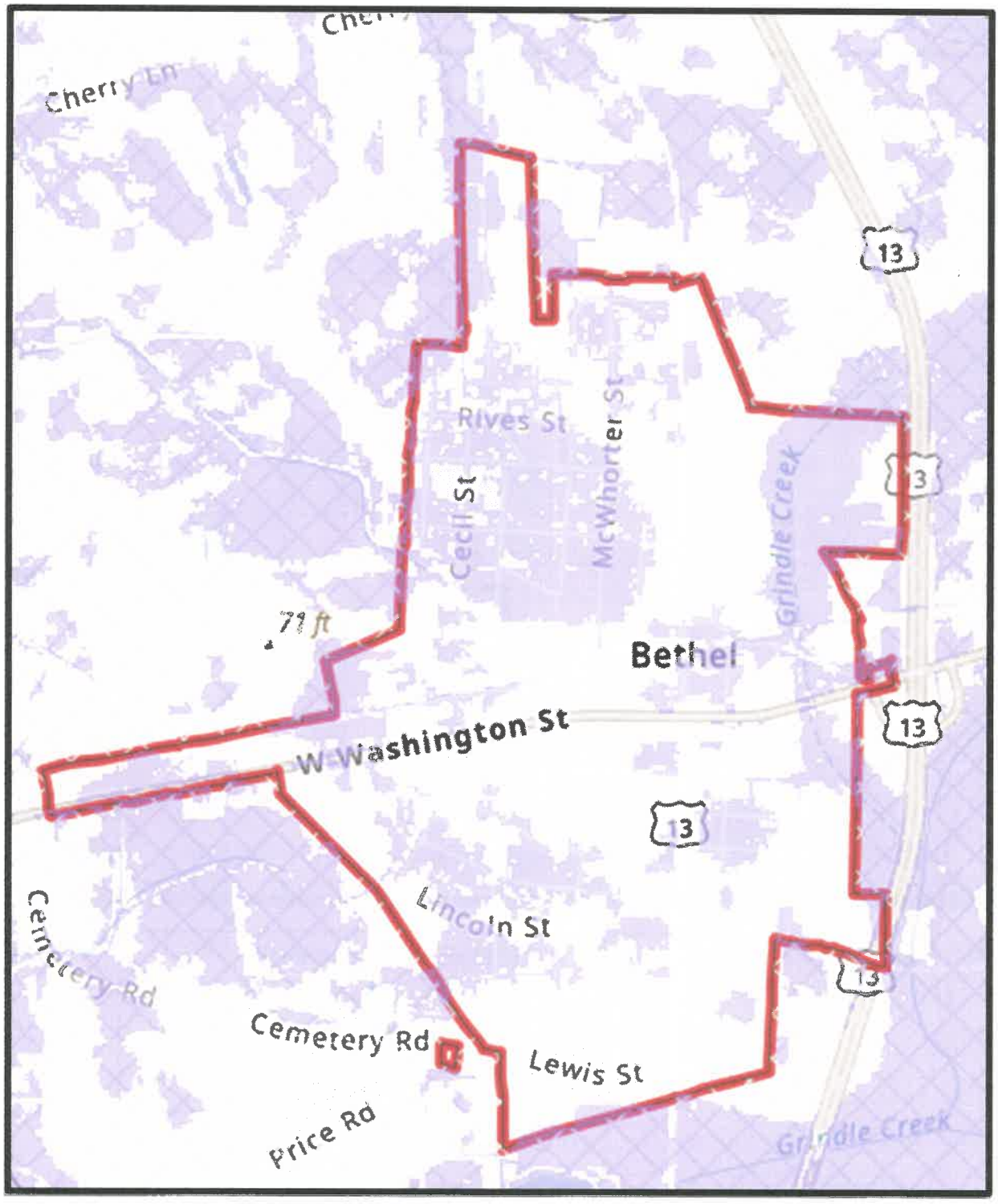
Town of Bethel Potential Inundation Areas



Inundation Area

37 structures within the extraterritorial jurisdiction are in potential inundation areas according to the Blueprint Tool

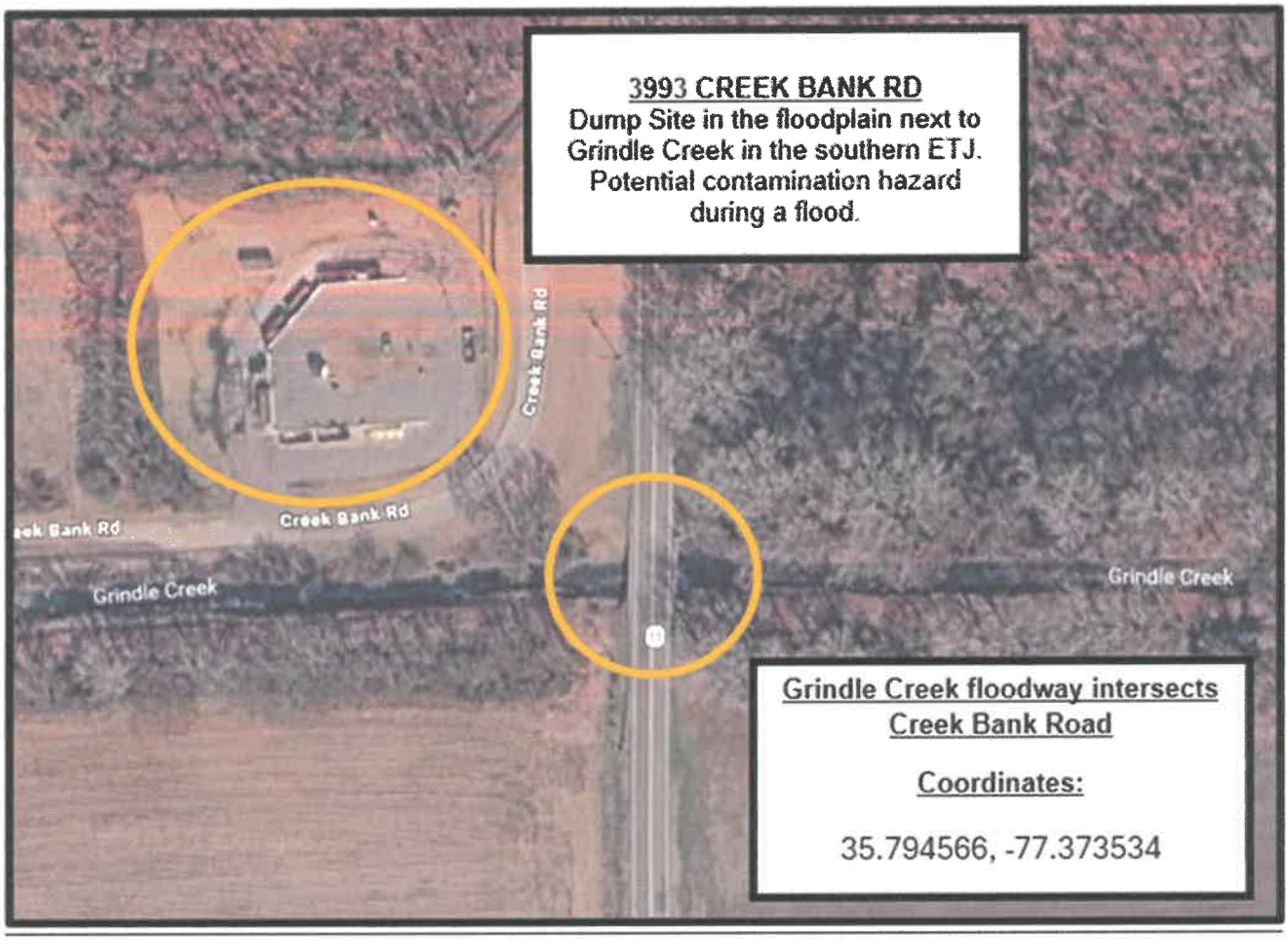
Town of Bethel Potential Inundation Areas



Inundation Area

306 structures within the town limits are in potential inundation areas according to the Blueprint Tool

Southern ETJ



Western ETJ



- These structures are in the 100 – year floodplain of Thomas Canal on the western side of the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Population Growth and Housing Growth

- The population of the Town of Bethel increased by 3.1% between 2020 and 2024.
- According to the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the total number of housing units in the Town of Bethel was 747 in 2010. The total number of housing units in 2023 was 848. This marked a 13.5% increase in housing units between 2010 and 2023.

Repetitive Loss Properties

- According to the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town of Bethel has one repetitive loss property with two recorded losses.

Pre-Firm Buildings

- According to the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town of Bethel has six "pre-firm" buildings which are at risk of damage from flooding.
- "Pre firm" refers to structures which were built prior to the community's first Flood Insurance Rate Map. These structures may not meet current flood safety standards such as base flood elevation requirements.

Community Rating System

- The Town of Bethel participates in the National Flood Insurance Policy but does not currently participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS).
- The CRS rewards communities for being proactive in flood mitigation by reducing flood insurance costs for residents.
- The CRS ranks communities 1-10 (with 1 being the highest score). This could allow for a discount of up to 45% on flood insurance for residents.
- CRS participation would require coordination with Pitt County government.

- **The Primary stormwater concern for the Town of Bethel is it's aging drainage infrastructure and the need for increased maintenance.**

Evidence of clogged storm drains from ECU student report:



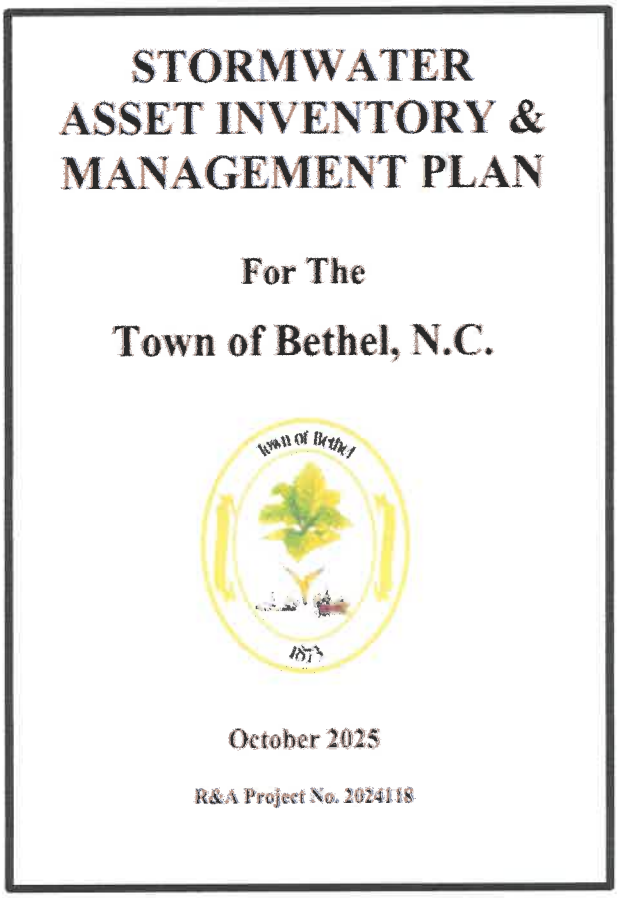


Evidence of clogged storm drains and damaged pipes from the SWAMP report:





Town of Bethel's Stormwater Asset Management Plan (SWAMP), prepared October 2025


STORMWATER
ASSET INVENTORY &
MANAGEMENT PLAN

For The

Town of Bethel, N.C.

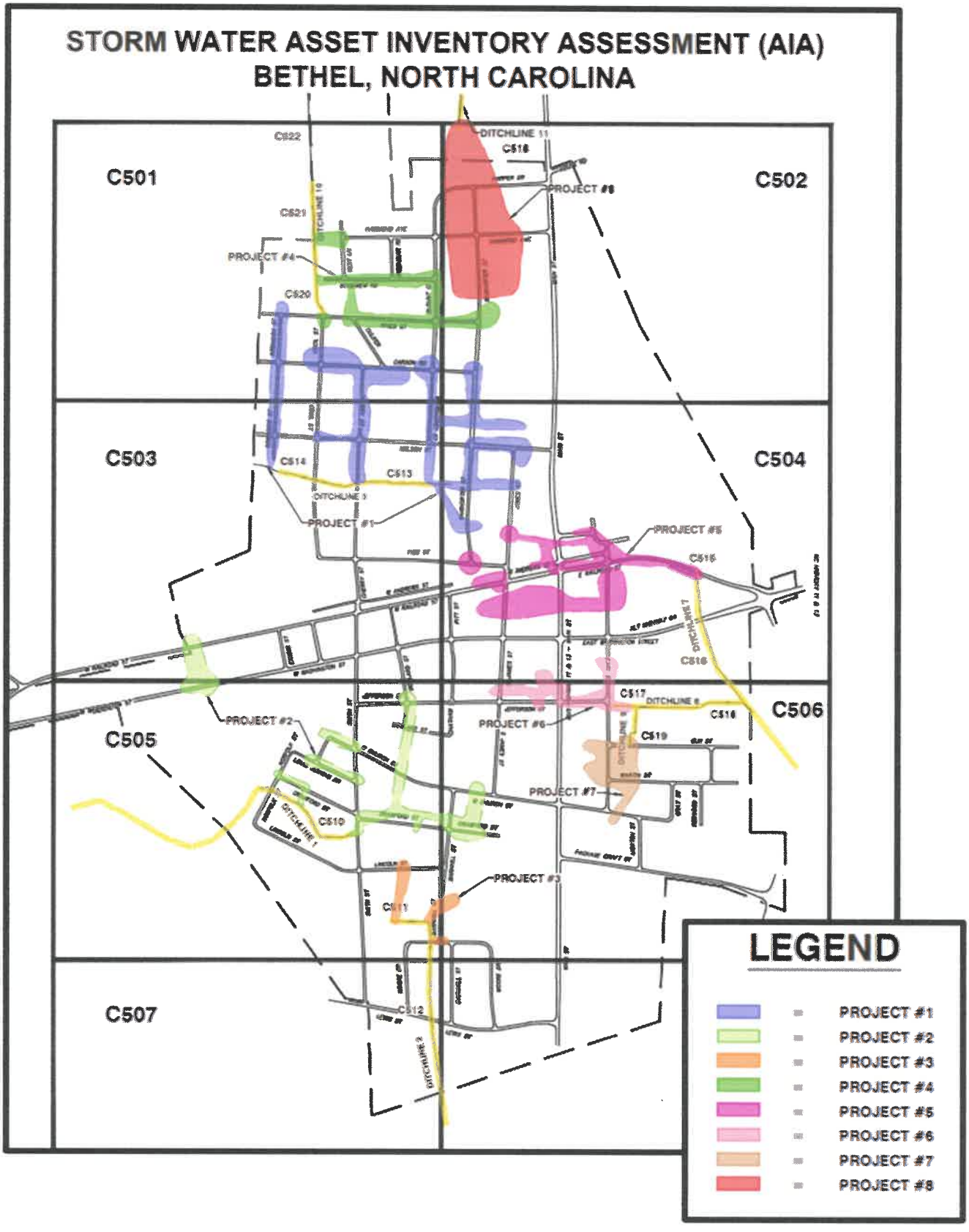
October 2025

R&A Project No. 2024118

- **This 2025 study by Rivers & Associates examined five miles of stormwater drainage with the Town Limits of Bethel**

- **Identified issues with aging drainage systems and proposed recommendations for maintenance and repair.**

- **Within the town limits, 10 specific projects were proposed as part of the 2025 Bethel Stormwater Asset Inventory Assessment**



- **A 10 year plan was developed for the implementation of each of the 10 proposed stormwater projects. Projects 1-8 were each separated into 2 phases while projects 9 and 10 were each proposed as single phase projects. The total cost was estimated at $3,869,565.99**

Town of Bethel
10 YEAR CIP MATRIX
STORMWATER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Project Name	Rank	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	Total
Project 1, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 3	1a	$ 69,662										$ 69,662.15
Project 1, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 3	1b	$ 163,443										$ 163,442.77
Project 2, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 1	2a		$ 38,604									$ 38,604.12
Project 2, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 1	2b		$ 195,014									$ 195,013.86
Project 3, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 2	3a			$ 53,967								$ 53,966.63
Project 3, Phase 1 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 2	3b			$ 21,677								$ 21,677.21
Project 4, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 10	4a				$ 33,995							$ 33,995.00
Project 4, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 10	4b				$ 139,418							$ 139,417.77
Project 5, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 7	5a					$ 47,493						$ 47,492.50
Project 5, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 7	5b					$ 189,844						$ 189,844.15
Project 6, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 8	6a						$ 40,025					$ 40,024.55
Project 6, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 8	6b						$ 73,042					$ 73,042.03
Project 7, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 9	7a							$ 19,298				$ 19,298.00
Project 7, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 9	7b							$ 33,513				$ 33,513.28
Project 8, Phase 1 - Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 11	8a								$ 11,399			$ 11,399.00
Project 8, Phase 2 - Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 11	8b								$ 81,284			$ 81,283.89
Project 9 - Clean & CCTV Miscellaneous Pipe and Structures	9									$ 43,879		$ 43,879.15
Project 10 - Replacement & Upgrade of Pipe & Structures Draining to Ditchline 3	10										$ 2,614,010	$ 2,614,009.95
Total		$ 233,104.92	$ 233,617.97	$ 75,643.84	$ 173,412.77	$ 237,336.65	$ 113,066.58	$ 52,811.28	$ 92,682.89	$ 43,879.15	$ 2,614,009.95	$ 3,869,565.99

Project 1:

- **Areas including Robinson St., Cecil St., Cherry St., Carson Rd., Whitehurst St., McWhorter St., Nelson St. & James St.**
- **Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 3**
  - **$69,662.15**
- **Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 3**
  - **$163,442.77**

Project 2:

- **Areas including portions of W. Railroad St., W. Washington St., Norfolk St, Crawford St., Smith St., Louis Jenkins Dr., W. Church St., Woolard St., Jefferson St., & Barnhill St.**
- **Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 1**
  - **$ 38,604.12**
- **Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 1**
  - **$195,013.86**

Project 3:

- **Areas including portions of Lincoln St., Moore St., Smith St., Lewis St., & Barnhill St.**
- **Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 2**
  - **$53,966.63**
- **Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 2**
  - **$21,677.21**

Project 4:

- Areas including Rives St., Woodview Rd., Blount Cr & Hammond Ave Areas
- Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 10
  - $33,995.00
- Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 10
  - $139,417.77

Project 5:

- Areas including E. Railroad St, W. Andrews St, James St., McWhorter St Areas
- Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 7
  - $47,492.50
- Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 7
  - $ 189,844.15

Project 6:

- Areas including portions of Jefferson St., James St., Main St. & East St Areas
- Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 8
  - $40,024.55
- Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 8
  - $ 73,042.03

Project 7:

- **Areas including Elm St, Martin St., & East St Areas**
- **Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 9**
  - **$ 19,298.00**
- **Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 9**
  - **$ 33,513.28**

Project 8:

- **Areas including portions of McWhorter St., Hammond Av., and Harper Dr. Areas**
- **Phase 1: Ditch/Channel Improvements - Ditchline 11**
  - **$ 11,399.00**
- **Phase 2: Clean & CCTV Pipe and Structures Draining to Ditchline 11**
  - **$ 81,283.89**

Project 9:

- Clean & CCTV Miscellaneous Pipe and Structures (various areas)
  - $43,879.15

Project 10:

- areas including Robinson St., Cecil St., Cherry St., Carson Rd., Whitehurst St., McWhorter St., Nelson St. & James St. Areas
- Replacement & Upgrade of Pipe & Structures Draining to Ditchline 3
- This project involves rehabilitating the Town of Bethel's stormwater drainage system. This project will consist of upgrading existing 12 and 15 " pipe and replacement of existing 18', 24' & 30 ' pipe and rehabilitation of 59 existing structures.
  - $2,614,009.95

Total estimated cost of all 10 projects:

- $3,869,565.99



- Scan the QR code above to access the full NCDEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool Manual.

Town of Bethel - Final Report

Nathaniel Jones, Lee Leavelle, Grant Smith, Wyatt Brown, Michael Ross

Disaster Planning 4015

Dr. Anuradha Mukherji

April 30, 2026

Introduction

Bethel is a small rural town located outside of Greenville NC. Bethel is a topographically flat town with a shrinking and aging population, and this town is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of stormwater flooding and river overflow.



Figure 1: Satellite Image of Bethel - (Landsat, 2024)

Shown by the satellite image from Landsat, Bethel, North Carolina is a small rural town surrounded by farmland and low-density development. The conditions that plague Bethel have all been addressed by the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigational Plan, which serves as the guiding framework for Bethel's flood mitigation strategy. The plan proposes a range of approaches including risk assessment, zoning and land-use regulation, property acquisition, stormwater infrastructure improvements, and public outreach. These solutions are largely appropriate for a community fitting Bethel's description, though the difference between realistic capability and wishful thinking must be considered when pursuing any of these developments.

The most important problem that must be considered when discussing future and current mitigation measures taken in Bethel is the fact that the town has a shrinking and aging population. Bethel is not a community on the rise, it is a town where many elderly come for lower housing costs and lower costs of living. This will be discussed further in the background

section, but it must be taken into account now. This shrinking population directly affects the budget for the prevention measures discussed above, and all recommendations provided in this report take this fact into account. This report examines and evaluates the equity and viability of current mitigation efforts, and identifies what is needed to help Bethel become a more disaster resistant community.

Interview Descriptions/Summary

In our research into the Town of Bethel, we sought the insight of Thomas Schrader, the Pitt County community planner. The first question we asked Thomas Schrader was what disaster mitigation infrastructure was already in place, he responded by saying that drainage piping and ditches are the main source of alleviation in terms of standing water and water runoff. He also told us that state floodmapping and floodplain upkeep are also important, limiting development on at-risk land. Secondly we asked about previous problems that plagued the community. We learned that river flooding is typically the largest issue, and that most of the events have two phases, the initial flash flood followed by the prolonged river flooding stage. In the past, those who were willing to evacuate did, and the ones who weren't willing had to be rescued. Vulnerable and at risk areas were also asked about, with the response Besides general flash flooding, the most obvious point of concern for the town is Grindle creek. As stated previously, there have been evacuations done because of the severity, and the river has been the cause of continued concern. Thomas Schrader also informed us that the current disaster plan was up to date with the next plan being due in 2030, as the current one was adopted last year, in 2025.

Following questions that focused on continual issues that plagued the community, we asked about what infrastructure the town was investing in to combat them. Schrader told us that the town maintains the upkeep of floodplains and drainage piping, both of which have upkeep expenses. As far as infrastructure only, drainage ditches are the main development in this town, usually in the form of unpaved ditches or dug out channels.

Schrader also told us of how the town coordinates with federal and state agencies during disaster response, saying that Pitt county works closely with the town to pursue disaster recovery funds, and have administered those programs in the past. The county handles most communication between federal, state and smaller municipalities. There is also the emergency

operations system. Which helps identify problems, delegates responsibilities and maintain a consistent front.

Other questions asked of Schrader touched on climate change related risks along the lines of increased storms and rainfall. He informed us that there are ordinance changes being talked about, both the flood damage prevention ordinance and the stormwater ordinance to incorporate more needed stages in the planning phase. Including these future conditions, more stringent regulations will probably come into play, which might not be popular with local residents. Finally we asked about interim solutions that residents and the town have put in place as holders until more permanent solutions can unfurl. He told us that dirt ditches have been a continual go to for local residents, as well as partial elevations of structures such as sheds or vehicle stands (Image 2). Structural elevation is a potential development in the future following paving and routing of new additional drainage piping and grates.

Bethel Flood Risk Analysis and Flooding Challenges

Roads throughout the town sit flat with inadequate crowning, allowing water to accumulate on the road surface, creating hazards for travelers and local residents. Bethel contains a very flat topographic profile, making proper drainage difficult due to a slower flow rate. There is also concern that much of the existing pipes for the stormwater system are simply inadequate in size. In addition to the insufficient pipes, most of the existing infrastructure is old, well past its lifespan, and poorly maintained (Town of Bethel, SWAMP, 2025 P.9). Some of these concerns were also observed during an on-site visit to take photos of the town and its stormwater management systems, where multiple storm drains were seen clogged and damaged.

The town's primary flood threat comes from Grindle Creek, which runs near the south of the community and has been the source of repeated flood events, evacuations, and infrastructure damage. The creek is an especially volatile element during heavy rain events. With the rising tempo of events caused by climate change, Bethel's existing drainage infrastructure is struggling to keep up. Bethel relies primarily on shallow drainage ditches, many of which are unpaved, poorly maintained, or insufficiently routed into a functional storm drain network, as shown in the first two figures below.



Figure 1: Obstructed Drain - (Lee Leavelle, 2024)



Figure 2: Overfilled Drain - (Lee Leavelle, 2024)

Since Bethel is a small town with limited infrastructure, it is harder to manage these flooding issues compared to larger cities. The size of the town means fewer resources and less advanced systems, which increases the impact of flooding when it does happen.

Background with Demographic and Economic Graphs

The following graphs and data provide a clearer look at Bethel's population, including race, age, and gender, which all play a role in how the community is affected by flooding and future planning decisions.

Median Income: $52, 961 per year Population: 1,544

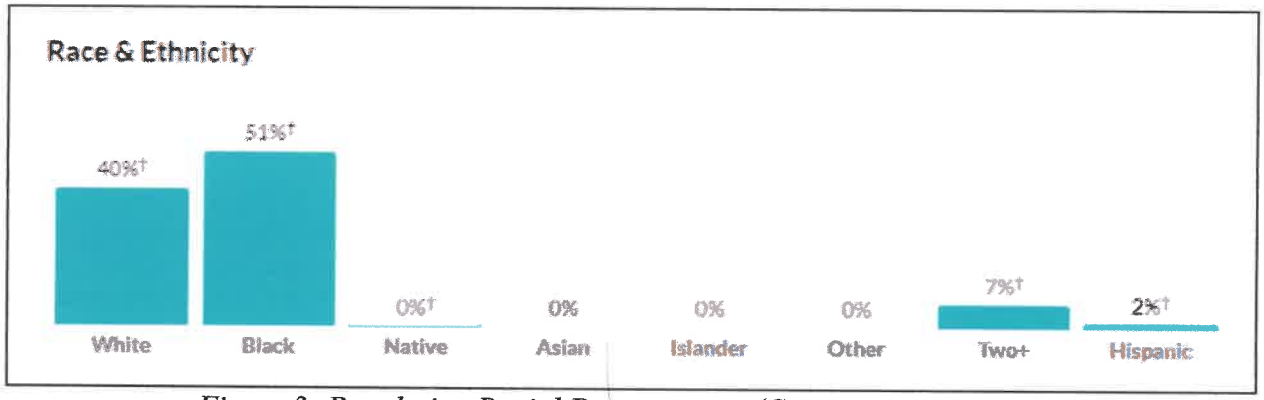


Figure 3: Population Racial Percentages - (Census Reporter, 2024)

Displayed above is a graphical depiction of Bethel's population divided by percentages of racial makeup. Bethel's residents are primarily African American, with White residents being the other large contributing group. Other racial groups are much less prevalent. This displays a lack of diversity compared to larger towns and cities. Understanding this is important as it can help explain what the communities needs are as well as how access to resources may impact different groups in Bethel.

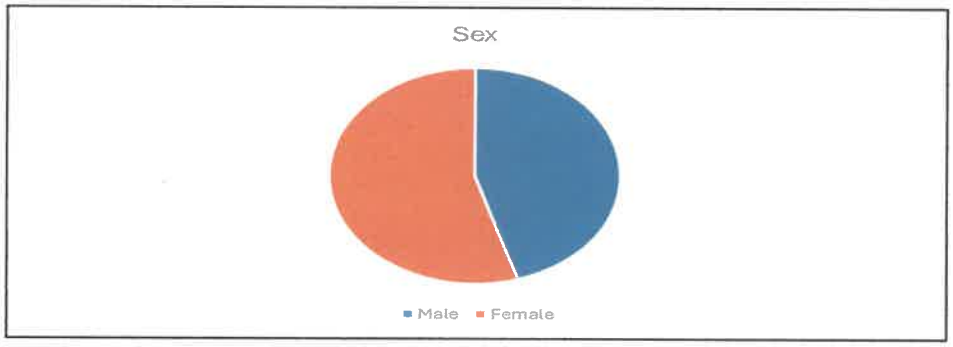


Figure 4: Population Gender Percentages - (DataUSA, 2024)

This graph above shows that the population in Bethel is mostly evenly split between men and women, with a slightly higher number of women (55%). This is common in many smaller or older communities and can be connected to the higher number of older residents (Data USA).

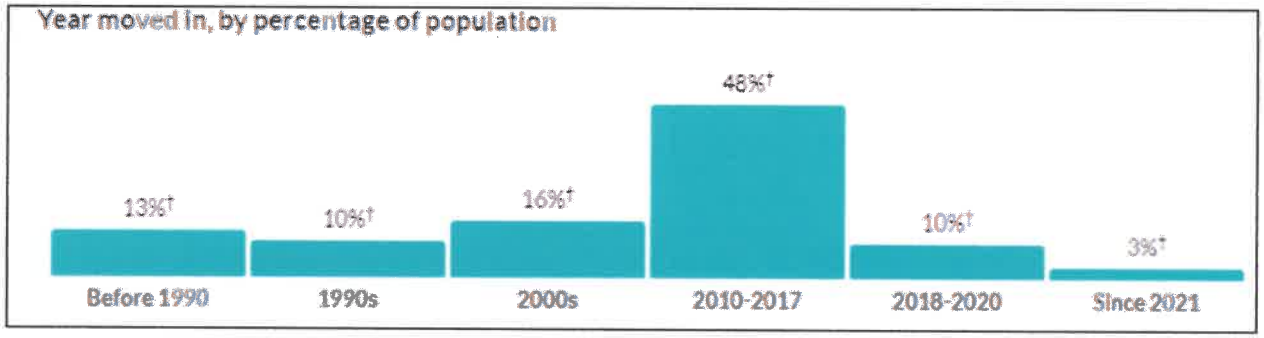


Figure 5: Resident Intake - (Census Reporter, 2024)

Displayed in this figure are the years in which percentages of Bethel's current population moved into the town. The 13% that moved in before 1990 is 1.5 times higher than the US average while 2010-2017 had a massive influx of residents, with a notable downward trend following the 2010-2017 year bracket.

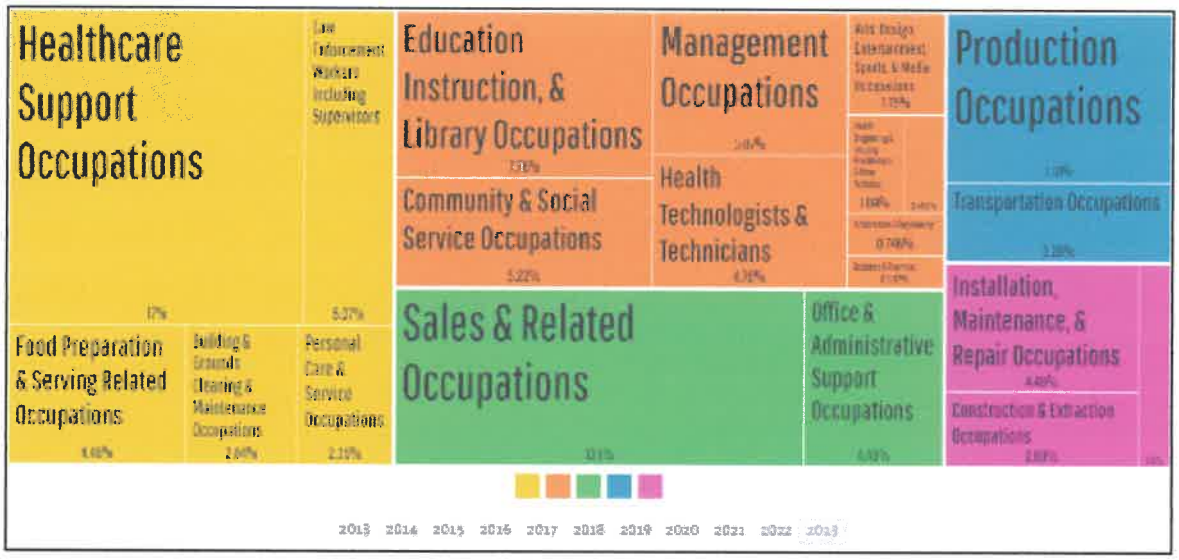


Figure 6: Employment Variety - (DataUSA, 2024)

This graph shows that while income levels are steady, there are still limits to economic growth, which matches the trend of stability. This also suggests that while the town is financially stable, there is not a lot of economic growth. Limited job variety and higher costs of insurance may make it harder for residents to build wealth over time, which could impact the town's future development.

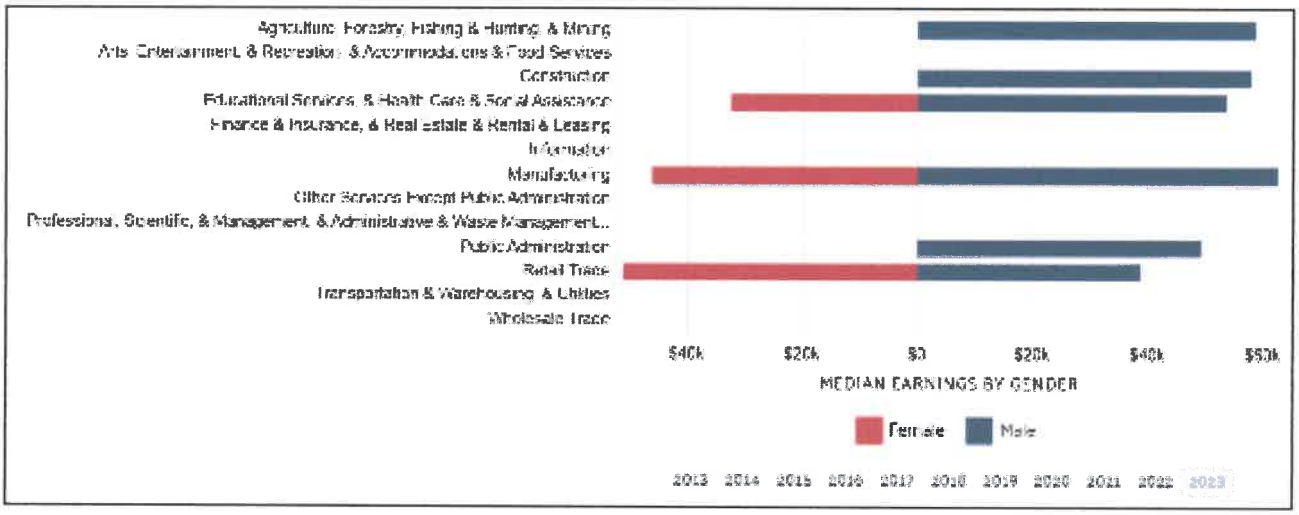


Figure 7: Median Earnings by Gender - (DataUSA, 2024)

This graph shows the difference in median earnings between males and females in Bethel. It shows that there is a gap in income between genders, which is common in many places. (Census Bureau) This difference can affect overall household income and economic stability, especially in a smaller town where job opportunities may already be limited.

Current Approaches

As stated previously, Bethel already adheres to the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in terms of both in place and possible mitigative actions in the attempt to reduce the disastrous effects that storm overflow has on the town. Broken down below are the current plans with their positives and negatives discussed (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025).

Community Engagement for Stormwater System Maintenance

This idea focuses on the vigilance of town residents, proposing that they help keep track of drains in disrepair or drains that have become clogged (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025). A positive related to this measure is cost effectiveness. For a diminishing town like Bethel, any money saved when possible is a bonus. The fact of Bethel's small size also helps this recommendation become more realistic, as in small towns word of mouth can travel fast and alert local officials long before any professional maintenance crew comes around. However, Bethel's aging and declining population presents a real limitation here, many elderly residents seek relaxation in their retirement, and this would diminish the effectiveness of total community engagement. Sustained community engagement requires organizational capacity and consistent participation, both of which are difficult to maintain in a shrinking town.

Expansion of Current Drainage Systems

Expanding drainage ditches and channels to divert excess water away from roads is a practical solution that fits Bethel's existing approach (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025). Drainage ditches are already the town's primary stormwater management tool, so expanding them builds on already established infrastructure. The main drawback is that ditches require ongoing maintenance to remain functional. Bethel already struggles with upkeep of

existing systems, which shows that new ditches could fall into the same pattern of disrepair if maintenance capacity is not also improved at the same time. There is also limited effectiveness if the ditches have nowhere adequate to direct water.

Property Acquisition / Buyouts

A major mitigation strategy discussed in the Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025) is the use of property buyouts, where flood-prone homes are purchased and removed to reduce long-term risk. This approach is encouraged because it permanently removes structures from flood-prone areas and returns land to open space (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025, Appendix C). While this may seem effective from a technical standpoint, it can create serious challenges for a small town like Bethel.

One major issue is social vulnerability. The plan itself highlights that factors such as age and income increase a community's difficulty in responding to and recovering from hazards (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025, p. 66). Bethel is a very small town with a population of only a few hundred people, meaning even small changes can have a big impact (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025, p. 266). In a community like this, many residents are older and have strong ties to their homes. Forcing relocation through buyouts can disrupt social networks and make recovery more difficult, especially for those who rely on community support.

Another concern is the economic impact. Buyouts often rely on funding tied to repetitive loss properties and FEMA grant programs (Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025, p. 323). However, compensation is typically based on property value, which can be relatively low in a small, less wealthy town like Bethel. This makes it difficult for residents to relocate to comparable housing, potentially forcing them into worse living situations or out of the community entirely. At the same time, removing homes reduces the town's already limited tax base, which can weaken public services and infrastructure over time.

Buyouts have the possibility to negatively affect community stability and cohesion. In small towns, neighborhoods are closely connected, and removing even a portion of homes can lead to fragmentation (Kraan & Hino, 2021, pp. 482). As properties are cleared, areas may become underutilized or vacant, changing the character of the town and making it less attractive

for future growth. While the plan promotes acquisition as a long-term solution, it does not fully address these local-level social and economic consequences.

Overall, although buyouts are effective at reducing flood risk, they may not be the most appropriate solution for Bethel. The town's small size, older population, and limited economic resources make relocation especially difficult and potentially harmful. Alternative strategies such as improving drainage systems, elevating homes, or strengthening local infrastructure may provide a more balanced approach that reduces risk while allowing residents to remain in their community.

STORMWATER ASSET INVENTORY & MANAGEMENT PLAN

Page 24 of Bethel's SWAMP plan mention's 6 potential improvement actions, below are the main ideas listed and explained with a few pros and cons.

Cleaning outfall ditches and canals

Cleaning outfall ditches and canals focuses on removing debris, sediment, vegetation, and blockages so water can properly flow through the system. This is important because clogged outfalls prevent stormwater from draining, which can lead to flooding even during smaller storms (Town of Bethel, SWAMP, 2025 P. 24). One major advantage of this approach is that it is relatively straightforward and can quickly improve drainage efficiency across the entire system. It also helps extend the life of existing infrastructure by reducing strain on pipes. However, a downside is that it requires ongoing maintenance, not just a one-time fix, and can become costly over time if vegetation and sediment continue to build up.

Cleaning the pipe network (initial and ongoing maintenance)

Cleaning the stormwater pipe system involves removing sediment and debris buildup to restore capacity and improve flow (Town of Bethel, SWAMP P.24, 2025). This is especially important in older systems where pipes may already be undersized or deteriorating. A major advantage is that it can significantly reduce flooding risks and improve system performance without immediately needing expensive replacements. However, the costs can vary ($4.15–$13.75 per linear foot), and like ditch cleaning, it must be done regularly, making it a recurring expense rather than a permanent solution.

Pipe rehabilitation, replacement, or upsizing

This strategy involves repairing damaged pipes, replacing old ones, or installing larger pipes to handle more water flow (Town of Bethel, SWAMP P.24 2025). The biggest advantage is that it provides a long-term solution to aging and undersized infrastructure, improving system capacity and resilience. However, this is also the most expensive option and can require significant construction, disruptions to roads or properties, and long planning timelines, which may be difficult for a small town with limited funding.

Street sweeping of curb and gutter areas

Street sweeping helps remove debris like leaves, trash, and sediment before it enters the stormwater system (Town of Bethel, SWAMP P.24 2025). This is a preventative measure that can reduce clogging and improve water quality. One clear benefit is that it is relatively low-cost compared to major infrastructure upgrades and helps maintain system performance. The downside is that it requires consistent scheduling and public cooperation (like not leaving yard waste in streets), and on its own, it cannot solve deeper structural issues in the drainage system.

Development Recommendations

Considering the data and background provided in previous sections of this proposal, we believe it best that future endeavors pursued by Bethel seek to include already existing infrastructure. Factoring in the shrinking population and budget constraints, it would be generally more effective to bulk up the infrastructure that is already in place, rather than seek consultation and pay for the entire developmental process. The two developments we believe Bethel would benefit from is the refurbishing and expansion of a current land depression into water retention lakes, and the use of empty land along the outskirts of Bethel as green space. Both of these proposals seek to provide buffers and stops that would heavily reduce the rush of water that originates from Grindle Creek during storm periods.

Water Retention Refurbishment of Current Land Depressions

The land depressions mentioned above are the dried out remains of two lagoons that were previously used as wastewater treatment lagoons. Their use stopped after Bethel was brought under the operation of Greenville Utility Company (GUC) services; they were abandoned. Existing infrastructure from an existing pumphouse that was once used as a sewage sump allows the unique opportunity to convert the lagoons into artificial lakes that not only could provide easy containment of storm water, but a potential economic boon to the town by the creation of a fishing location that the town could stock with fish and offer tickets for. If a water body of that scale was returned to functional condition, it would provide significant stormwater retention capacity. It could hold excess water during heavy rainfall events and release it gradually in a controlled manner that reduces the high flood levels downstream. This directly addresses one of Bethel's most notorious vulnerabilities, that being the lack of anywhere for water to go when rainfall overwhelms the shallow and unmaintained ditch system. Abandoned water infrastructure is a liability when left unmanaged, as deteriorating structures can themselves become hazards. This is especially true of the abandoned pump house, as its constant flooding rendered it inoperable. Refurbishing the lagoon converts that liability into an asset, and does so at a fraction of the cost of constructing similar retention depressions from scratch. The town should also explore whether this project qualifies for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, as retention and floodplain restoration projects are among the categories that program is designed to support. The depressions discussed above can be seen below in figures 8 and 9. It is important to note that these depressions sit along Grindle Creek, further bolstering the effectiveness of the proposal. Their proximity to the solar farm would also help prevent any damage to this critical piece of town infrastructure.

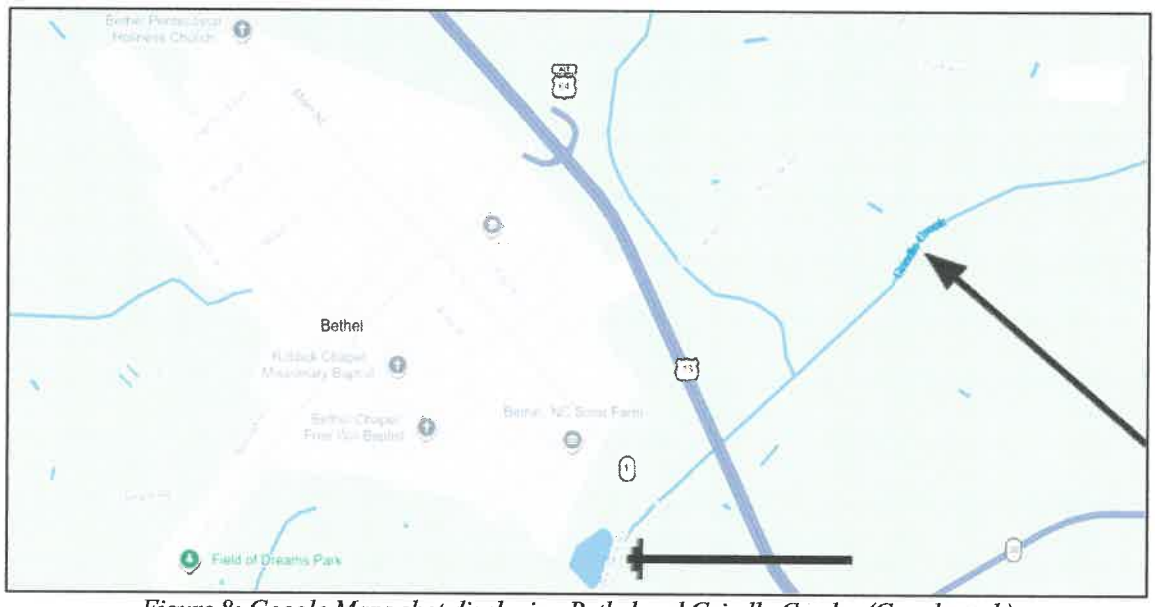


Figure 8: Google Maps shot displaying Bethel and Grindle Creek - (Google, n.d.)



Figure 9: Google Maps shot displaying abandoned square and triangular drainage basins - (Google, n.d.)

Green Space along Bethel's Outskirts

The case for green space development along Bethel's outskirts is based on the geography of the town itself. Bethel is flat, rural, and surrounded by agricultural land that drains toward its roads and drainage ditches with little natural resistance. Developing designated green space in these transitional areas between farmland and Bethel's interior would create a functional buffer that helps to slow, absorb and even redirect stormwater before it reaches roads and residential areas. These redirections could possibly lead back to the proposed refurbished lagoons if both developments were to happen. This green infrastructure is particularly well suited to Bethel's conditions because the land is already largely undeveloped and the town's shrinking population means there is little competitive pressure for that space. Features such as native plantings, and shallow retention areas can be incorporated at relatively low cost and maintained without highly specialized labor. Beyond the benefits of water redirection and retention, these spaces would also provide the community with accessible outdoor areas, a meaningful addition for an aging population in a town with limited public areas.

Conclusion

Bethel is a small and aging community facing a continual flood risk that its current infrastructure was not made to handle. Lack of maintenance, insufficient stormwater routing, and a reliance on shallow unpaved ditches have left the town incredibly vulnerable to both normal rainfall and the prolonged river flooding that follows major storm events. The Neuse River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025) provides a reasonable framework, but a plan on paper only works when development is actually allowed to happen. The recommendations put forward in this report, those being green space development along the town's outskirts and the refurbishment of the abandoned lagoons, were selected specifically because they develop already existing infrastructure, which helps Bethel in terms of its diminishing available funds.

These recommendations were also chosen with equity and long-term sustainability in mind. Bethel's population is older and in many cases lower-income, meaning flood events carry higher consequences for residents who have fewer options for recovery. Proposals that require minimal displacement, work with existing land and infrastructure, and can be implemented over time are both financially responsible and fair to all the town residents. Green space buffers and restored water retention capacity reduce flood exposure at the source rather than managing the

damage after it happens, which over time reduces the burden placed on residents and emergency responders.

In total, the goal of these recommendations is not to eliminate flood risk in Bethel, which would be neither realistic nor achievable given the town's topography, location, and current resources. The goal is to close the glaring gaps in Bethel's stormwater capacity in a way that is practical and affordable. By restoring what has been abandoned and developing what is already available, Bethel can meaningfully improve its resilience without overextention. The town has the geography, the land, and the existing infrastructure to make this work, all that is needed is effort.

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ATTACHMENT D

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-____

Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Agreement for Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel enacted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance on October 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel has the power, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts or agreements with any one or more other units of local government in this State to execute any undertaking; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel and Pitt County agree for the Pitt County Planning Department to administer the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within jurisdiction of the Town of Bethel in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Bethel and Pitt County; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Bethel must ratify by resolution any contract or agreement entered into pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-461.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Board of Commissioners hereby declare that the Mayor is authorized to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for the Pitt County Planning Department to administer the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Town of Bethel.

Adopted this the 6th day of October, 2026 and effective as of the 4th day of August, 2026.

TOWN OF BETHEL

_____
CARL WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
LINDA SHEPPARD, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENT E

Outlook

Selected houses

From Ben Jones <faltorco.ben@gmail.com>
Date Tue 9/29/2026 11:29 AM
To Town Manager of Bethel <manager@townofbethelnc.com>

	Name	Address	Proposed Action
1	Joann Purvis	173 Crawford Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
2	Tanesha Jenkins	151 Martin Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
3	Shelia Wilkens	~~3778~~ 3730 Barnhill Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
4	Mary Brown	3705 Briley Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
Alternates	**Name**	**Address**	**Proposed Action**
5	Dora Thomas	134 Elm Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
6	Johnny Staton	141 Lincoln Street	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction
7	David McCray	3856 Whitehurst Street	Rehabilitation

Ben Jones
faltorco.ben@gmail.com
FALTOR CONSULTING
PO Box 10136
Goldsboro NC, 27532

252-521-7965 - Cell

ATTACHMENT F

Proclamation Recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans
November 4-11, 2026

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Bethel have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than $52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel Town Board of Commissioners appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bethel Town Board of Commissioner herby supports Operation Green Light during the period from November 4 through November 11, 2026, the week of Veterans Day, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the Bethel Town Board of Commissioners encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence during the week of Veteran's Day, November 4 through November 11.

ADOPTED this 6th day of October, 2026

_____
Carl Wilson, Mayor

_____
Linda Sheppard, Town Clerk

Town of Bethel
Monthly Crime Statistic August 2026
September 10, 2026

Total Calls For Service N= 116 (CAD Data)
Total Incident Reports N= 19

Index Crimes

Violent Crime	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
Murder	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Assault	3	1	3
Property Crime			
Burglary	2	1	0
Larceny	1	0	1
Auto Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	1	0

Total Part II Crimes reported N= 15
(Numbers Based on the number of incident reports)

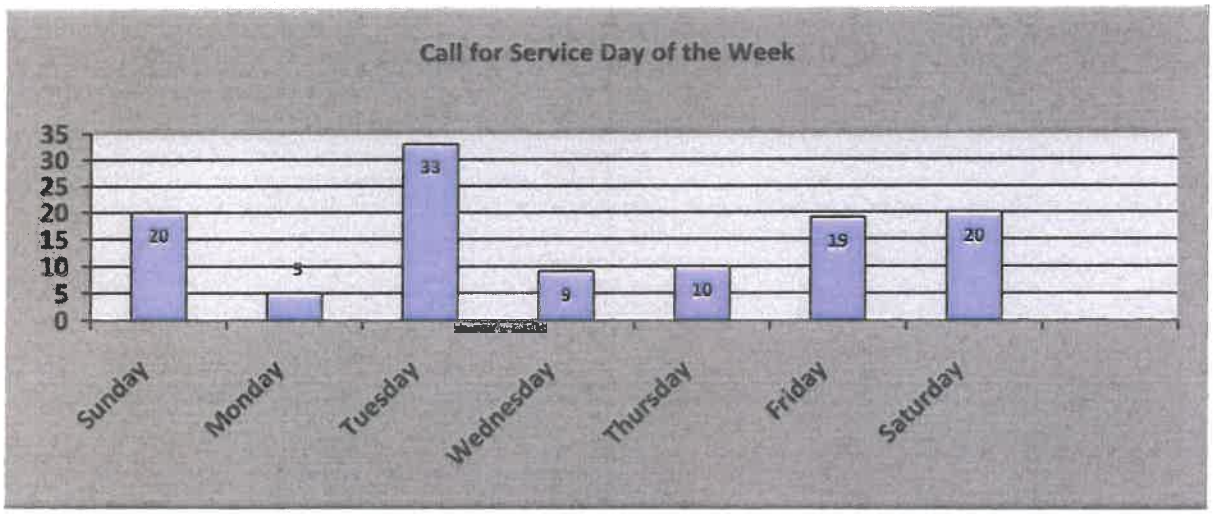
The most common Calls For Service prefomed with in the city of Bethel.

Traffic Complaint Report	0
Traffic Stops	3
Business Checks	640 (These are done in addition to calls for service.)
Sex Offender Check	0
Welfare Check	1
Alarm	2
Warrant Service	8
Ride By	60

Created by Laurie Stewart, Agency Crime Analyst 902-2657

Calls for Service Day of the Week

N= 116 (CAD Data)



ATTACHMENT H

Budget vs Actual (Summary)

Town of Bethel
9/14/2026 5:52:22 PM

Period Ending 8/31/2026

10 GENERAL FUND

Description	Budget	Encumbrance	MTD	QTD	YTD	Variance	Percent
Revenues							
	2,169,600	0.00	111,311.72	141,288.79	141,288.79	(2,028,311.21)	7%
Revenues Totals:	2,169,600	0.00	111,311.72	141,288.79	141,288.79	(2,028,311.21)	7%
Expenses							
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
GOVERNING BODY	40,680	0.00	5,242.94	7,659.34	7,659.34	33,020.66	19%
ADMINISTRATION-GF	469,484	1,010.66	40,851.66	77,797.13	77,797.13	390,676.21	17%
TAX COLLECTION PITT COUNTY	9,500	0.00	1,306.96	1,306.96	1,306.96	8,193.04	14%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	242,000	20.33	14,929.54	14,929.54	14,929.54	227,050.13	6%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	751,860	145.99	50,188.36	67,810.73	67,810.73	683,903.28	9%
STREET DEPARTMENT	418,823	0.00	65,032.62	93,302.96	93,302.96	325,520.04	22%
SANITATION DEPARTMENT	74,300	0.00	6,318.57	12,654.65	12,654.65	61,645.35	17%
RECREATION DEPARTMENT	24,400	0.00	20,188.38	30,091.39	30,091.39	(5,691.39)	123%
LIBRARY	29,771	0.00	493.67	24,893.00	24,893.00	4,878.00	84%
CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	17,500	0.00	3,750.00	4,150.00	4,150.00	13,350.00	24%
SENIOR CENTER	19,700	0.00	361.89	491.76	491.76	19,208.24	2%
STORMWATER	0	0.00	10,000.04	10,000.04	10,000.04	(10,000.04)	
CONTINGENCY	17,404	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,404.00	
DEBT SERVICE	23,075	0.00	986.00	1,972.00	1,972.00	21,103.00	9%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	31,103	0.00	0.00	31,103.00	31,103.00	0.00	100%
Expenses Totals:	2,169,600	1,176.98	219,650.63	378,162.50	378,162.50	1,790,260.52	17%
10 GENERAL FUND Revenues Over/(Under) Expenses:			(108,338.91)	(236,873.71)	(236,873.71)		

Cash Balance Report

Period Ending 8/31/2026

Town of Bethel

9/14/2026 5:29 PM

Bank 5	SOUTHERN BANK & TRUST Acct#- 5531103060	
	Account	Balance
	10-102-0000 GENERAL FUND CHECKING	$196,714.40
	15-102-0000 CAPITAL RESERVE CASH	$0.00
	63-102-0000 ARP GRANT CHECKING	$0.00
	64-102-0000 SCIF GRANT FUND CHECKING	-$113,918.40
	65-102-0000 RTG CASH	-$35,268.00
	67-102-0000 CDBG-NR CASH	$0.00
	Bank 5 Total:	$47,528.00

Bank 6		
	Account	Balance
	10-151-0000 NCCMT INVESTMENTS	$2,318,180.31
	64-151-0000 NCCMT INVESTMENTS	$171,331.50
	65-151-0000 NCCMT INVESTMENTS	$0.00
	66-151-0000 NCCMT-STRUCTURE DEMOLITION	$200,000.00
	Bank 6 Total:	$2,689,511.81

Total Cash Balance:	$2,737,039.81

ATTACHMENT I

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

MONTH OF August - September

CALLS:	NUMBER:
WATER FLOWS	
CAR FIRES	
STORM MODES	
BRUSH FIRES	2
MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	5
HOUSE FIRES	3
STRUCTURE FIRES	2
ALARMS	
ASSIST EMS	1
SERVICE CALLS	1
OUTSIDE COUNTY FIRES	3
POWER LINES DOWN	0
C02 ALARMS	2
OTHER: Commercial Fire	2

TRAINING HOURS:	TOTAL: _____

EQUIPMENT UPDATE:	
2102	OK
2104	OK
2105	OK
2106	being worked on
2109	OK
OTHER: _____	
OTHER: _____	

Town of Bethel
North Carolina

252-818-0891
141 W Railroad St
PO Box 337
Bethel, NC 27812
www.bethelnc.org

ATTACHMENT J

September 1, 2026

Dear Mayor and Board of Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my resignation from my position as Interim Town Manager for the Town of Bethel, effective December 18, 2026, as I retire from public service.

Serving as Interim Town Manager has been a meaningful and rewarding experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Mayor, Town Commissioners, employees, and citizens of Bethel. I am especially proud of the progress accomplished during my tenure and the foundation that has been established for the Town's continued growth and success.

Among the significant accomplishments during my service are:

- Strengthening fiscal compliance and financial accountability.
- Working to resolve of outstanding IRS matters.
- Development of the Stormwater AIA Study and Utility Rate Study.
- Making improvements to Town Hall, including audio-visual capabilities and the creation/renovation of the new law enforcement/town hall breakroom.
- Facilitating the selection of a Professional Services Engineering Firm.
- Completing the vegetative debris site clean-up.
- Development of the Smith Street Park Master Plan and park improvements (paved walking trail & playground equipment)
- Securing an award of a $950,000 CDBG-NR grant.
- Completion of renovations to the Bethel Public Library.
- Completion of Phase I of the Town's street paving program.
- Initiating the beginning of a Strategic Economic Development Plan for the Town of Bethel.

I am particularly appreciative of the opportunity to address several important operational, financial, infrastructure, and community-development matters during my time with the Town. I believe these efforts will provide lasting benefits to the Town of Bethel and its residents.

As I approach retirement, I remain committed to helping ensure a smooth transition. I will do everything reasonably possible during the remainder of my tenure to assist the Mayor, Town

Commissioners, staff, and my successor in maintaining continuity and moving current initiatives forward.

Thank you for the confidence placed in me and for the opportunity to serve the Town of Bethel. It has been an honor and a privilege to contribute to the Town and to work alongside those dedicated to making Bethel a strong and vibrant community.

I wish the Mayor, Town Commissioners, employees, and citizens of Bethel continued success in the years ahead.

Respectfully,

D. Scott Elliott

D. Scott Elliott
Interim Town Manager

ATTACHMENT K

NORTH CAROLINA

PITT COUNTY

Second Amendment to Agreement for Employment as Interim Town Manager

This Amendment, is made and entered into as of the 6th day of October, 2026, by and between the Town of Bethel, North Carolina (hereinafter "Town"), by and through the Town Commissioners of Bethel (hereinafter "Commission") and D. Scott Elliott (hereinafter "Manager"), all of whom understand as follows:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Town and Manager entered into an Agreement for Employment as Interim Town Manager (hereinafter "Agreement") on the 4th day of April, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Town and Manager entered into an Amendment to Agreement for Employment as Interim Town Manager (hereinafter "Agreement") on the 6th day of August, 2024; and

WHEREAS, both the Town and Manager wish to further amend said Agreement as set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties agree that the aforementioned Agreement for Employment as Interim Town Manager will be amended as follows:

Section 2. Term.

Subject to earlier termination as provided for in Section 9, Subsection D. hereof, the term of this Agreement shall be for the time period beginning on October 1, 2026 and ending on December 18, 2026.

Section 3. Salary.

Town agrees to pay the Manager a flat monthly sum of Two Thousand and No/00 Dollars ($2,000.00) per month, payable at the beginning of each month for the following months: October, November and December, 2026. This corresponds to the Manager submitting a letter of resignation to the Town dated September 1, 2026 with the intent to retire near year's end.

Further, Town agrees to pay Manager a Special Payment not considered wages in the amount of Nineteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($19,000.00) on or before December 31, 2026. The Special Payment will be primarily to assist in the recruitment, selection and orientation of new a Town Manager or new Interim Town Manager in the months of October, November and December of 2026. The Special Payment is compensation for services performed during calendar year 2026. All services and requirements necessary to earn the Special Payment will be completed no later than December 18, 2026.

Town agrees for Manager to continue to be on Town payroll to be compensated and not be handled as an IRS 1099 employee.

The amendments to Section 2. Term and Section 3. Salary are effective as of October 1, 2026.

In all other respects, the provisions of the remaining paragraphs of the Agreement for employment as Interim Town Manager between the Town and Manager entered into on the 4th day of April, 2024 and amended on August 6th, 2024 which includes Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are hereby ratified and confirmed; however, Sections 3 and 7 are hereby deleted and removed from said Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Bethel has caused this Amendment to be signed and executed on its behalf by its Mayor, and duly attested by its Town Clerk, and the Employee has signed and executed this Amendment, both in duplicate, the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF BETHEL

BY: Carl Wilson

CARL WILSON, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Linda Sheppard

LINDA SHEPPARD, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

E. KEEN LASSITER, Town Attorney

D. Scott Elliott

D. SCOTT ELLIOTT,

Interim Town Manager