

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Chairman
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: OPENING

SUMMARY: Call to Order
Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Chairman
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

SUMMARY: Attached is the proposed Agenda for the September 2, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners.

RECOMMEND: Review, Amend and Approve.

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

AGENDA

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- August 3, 2026 Regular Minutes

PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Aviation Response Paramedic (ARP) Pilot Program – 60-Day Evaluation.....EMS Chief,
Brook Cox
- 2) EMS Life Saving AwardEMS Chief, Brook Cox
- 3) Tax Collections.....Tax Collector, Ryan Bishop
 - Report – August 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments are a time for the public to make comments to the County Commissioners. Comments should be kept to three (3) minutes or less and comments should be directed to the entire Board and not to individual members, the staff or to other members of the public. Comments requesting assistance will typically be referred to the County Manager for follow-up or for Board action at a future meeting.

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- 1) Ordinances – Resolutions – Proclamations
 - A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTIES OF BEAUFORT, BRUNSWICK, CARTERET, CRAVEN, CURRITUCK, DARE, HYDE, NEW HANOVER, AND PAMLICO REQUESTING GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WAIVE ALL TOLLS AND FEES AFFECTING NORTH CAROLINA FERRY ROUTES FOR LOCALLY REGISTERED VEHICLES
..... Manager Noble
 - A RESOLUTION OF THE HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND § 136-82. TO INCLUDE PRIORITY LOADING FOR OCRACOKE RESIDENTS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION
.....Manager Noble

2) Appointments

- Reappointment to the Hyde County ABC Board Manager Noble
 - Southern Albemarle Association Delegates List Manager Noble
- 3) Award of Emergency Management and Preparedness RFPs Chief Deputy, Joey Williams
- 4) MOU – Hyde County Schools & Hyde County Sheriff’s Office..... Sheriff Guire Cahoon
Chief Deputy Joey Williams
- 5) Health Department Operations – Consultative Services Agreement..... Manager Noble
- 6) CDBG-NR Project No. 21-C-4028 – Amendment No. 1: Additional Time Manager Noble
- 7) Hyde County Land Use Plan - Introduction and Existing Conditions Review Manager Noble

BUDGET MATTERS

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

The Commissioners, County Manager and Assistant County Manager will share with the public their various activities and ideas for continuous improvement of government services to the citizens.

CLOSED SESSION in accordance with NCGS143A-318.11 (a) (6)

ADJOURN

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Informational Items

- 1) Hyde County Soil & Water Agricultural Cost Share Program Sign Up
- 2) NC Cooperative Extension, Hyde County Center, August 2026, County Commissioners Report

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Clerk to the Board
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

SUMMARY: Attached is the August 3, 2026 Regular Minutes to review and adopt.

RECOMMEND: Review, Amend and Approve.

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, August 3, 2026

Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer led by Commissioner Thomas Midgette, Vice Chairman Shannon Swindell called the August 3, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 1:10 p.m., in the Hyde County Government Center Multi-Use Room and Ocracoke Community Center using electronic conferencing equipment. The meeting was live-streamed via Hyde County Facebook page.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Randal Mathews; Commissioner Jan Moore; Commissioner Thomas Midgette; Commissioner Jeffery Berry; County Manager Kris Noble; Board Clerk Richard Mann; Tax Administrator Ryan Bishop; and County Attorney Franz Holscher. Vice Chairman Shannon Swindell was absent.

The meeting was recorded to be posted on the Hyde County Public Information Facebook page. The video is available on Facebook for download to a personal device.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA:

Manager Noble presented the meeting agenda and its one amendment. Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the July 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

PRESENTATIONS:

1) Life-Saving Award Presentation

The Board recognized and honored Hyde County Sheriff's Office deputies and Hyde County EMS personnel for their exceptional service and heroic actions in responding to a critical incident on Ocracoke Island. Through their professionalism, teamwork, and swift response, these individuals played a vital role in saving a life. The presentation recognizes their dedication to public service and their commitment to protecting the health and safety of Hyde County residents and visitors.

Six personnel were recognized for their bravery and heroic actions: Daniel Tompkins, Brent Hill, Scott Davis, Robert Wood, Alex Trenz, and Rob King.

Hyde County EMS Chief Brook Cox stood to express her gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the men and women involved in three emergency calls on Ocracoke Island. She expressed that it "fills [her] with pride" the work that EMS and the Sheriff's Office has done. She explained that, two years ago, there were concerns that Ocracoke was not receiving reliable emergency service coverage. She believed that, after recent events, this is no longer a concern.

Hyde County Sheriff Guire Cahoon stood to speak about how the men and women working in emergency departments put themselves on the line every day, and that Ocracoke and the Mainland are blessed to have these individuals protecting and serving them.

Chairman Randal Mathews stated that "when a job is being done well, you don't hear a lot about it." That applied to this incident and he and the rest of the Commissioners expressed their pride and thanks for all personnel involved.

2) Tax Report

Tax Administrator Ryan Bishop presented the tax report for the month of July. Since July is the first month of the fiscal year, they do not have any comparables. These comparables will resume once data is available.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the monthly tax report. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Mr. Bishop then presented four DMV refunds to be approved by the Board.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the refunds as presented. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

3) July Rain Storm Report

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble presented the July Rain Storm Report. She brought before the Board a Resolution Requesting State and Federal Assistance for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resiliency, and asked for their approval. Manager Noble had put together a slideshow of photos

depicting damaged fields, flooded yards, and inaccessible roads due to the excessive rainfall received during the month of July. As the Board reviewed the images, Manager Noble read from a report given to her by our NC Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agents, Andrea Gibbs:

“Agriculture is Hyde County's largest industry, with approximately 88,000 harvested acres of cropland. Hyde County consistently ranks among North Carolina's top ten counties for corn, soybean, and cotton production. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, farm cash receipts exceeded \$170 million.

Hyde County is known for its highly productive organic soils; however, its extremely low elevation makes agriculture highly dependent on active water management. Much of the county lies only 5 to 7 feet above sea level, with elevations ranging from below sea level to the county's highest point, a 27-foot sand dune on Ocracoke Island. Maintaining functioning drainage infrastructure is essential to protect farmland, homes, and communities from flooding.

Prior to July, Hyde County experienced below-average rainfall and increasingly dry conditions. During the first week of July, many areas received an entire month's worth of average precipitation (5+”). An additional approximately 4 inches of rain fell between July 19-21, followed by another 9 to 13 inches between July 23-25, resulting in widespread flooding across the county. Overall the county has averaged 16-22” of rain in the month of July with the majority of the rain falling during the week of July 20th.

The Village of Fairfield and approximately 11,000 acres rely entirely on the Fairfield Drainage District for flood protection. The Fairfield Drainage District operates five primary pumps, each capable of moving approximately 60,000 gallons of water per minute. Farmers in the Fairfield area reported receiving as much as 13 inches of rainfall during July 23-24 alone. Since soils were already saturated from previous rainfall events, nearly all of this water had to be removed mechanically through the pumping system. Even with all five pumps operating continuously at full capacity, it is estimated that approximately nine days of pumping will be required to return water levels to those that existed before the storm.

Extended periods of saturated soils severely limit oxygen available to crop roots, reducing nutrient uptake and increasing nitrogen losses through leaching and denitrification. Prolonged flooding reduces grain fill, weakens corn stalks, increases lodging, promotes root and ear diseases, and raises the risk of sprouting, mold development, and mycotoxin contamination, all of which reduce grain quality and yield.

Corn can generally survive complete submergence for only up to 72 hours before rapid plant death begins. Likewise, soybeans subjected to more than 72 hours of continuous flooding experience irreversible damage and substantial yield losses. Portions of Hyde County, particularly Fairfield and the Mattamuskeet Association, have remained saturated or flooded for periods exceeding this threshold.

The full extent of crop losses will not be known until the waters recede and more in-depth evaluations can be completed. Seven days after the weather event, plants are showing signs of extreme stress. harvest. Damage varies depending on total rainfall received, the ability of drainage systems to remove water, duration of soil saturation, flood depth, and crop growth stage.

Producers throughout Hyde County have reported widespread crop damage. Corn is showing signs of premature death as the roots have completely shut down. Corn will translocate sugars from stalk into the grain to try and compensate, but grain size will be reduced. Estimated loss for corn is 25% kernel weight. Soybean and cotton fields continue to decline rapidly. Some fields are expected to be complete losses while others will be less. A farmer in Fairfield estimates a 2 million dollar loss for his operation. Another grower estimated a \$5 million loss for Fairfield. He believes there will be 100% loss on half the soybeans in Fairfield.

Based on preliminary producer reports:

- Corn yields, grain quality, and harvestability will be significantly reduced. Corn in growth stages prior to R2 will be significantly impacted.
- Soybean fields are expected to experience substantial yield reductions, poor grain quality, and, in some locations, complete crop failure.
- Cotton has sustained significant flood damage and yield potential continues to decline.
- Growers in Fairfield and the Mattamuskeet Drainage Association suffered the most and are estimating 60% to 100% crop losses, depending on location, crop, and drainage conditions.
- Growers in other parts of the county are estimating 10-25% crop loss

These estimates are preliminary and are expected to change as floodwaters recede and additional field assessments are completed. However, current conditions indicate that this flooding event will have significant economic impacts on Hyde County agriculture.”

Once the slideshow and report had ended, Manager Noble called two concerned farmers to take the podium: Benjamin Simmons and Tyler Mann of Fairfield.

Mr. Simmons explained that he worked and resided in Hyde County Drainage System #7, and that himself and Mr. Mann are Fairfield Drainage Commissioners. By their count, system #7 received approximately 15.9 inches of rainfall. He explained that the flood water was so high, that many citizens had to walk through water almost to their knees to get to their homes; the same water that had flooded many septic and sewer systems. Duct work was also destroyed under many residences.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Fairfield drainage system was established in 1954, and was completed in 1956. The pumps used today are the same pumps that have been used since the system was completed. He expressed that all pumps in the drainage district have been working at full capacity, but could not keep up with the amount of water. This is in part due to Fairfield having no natural drainage compared to other areas in the county, such as Swan Quarter and Engelhard. This led to

millions of dollars in crops being destroyed. This was in spite of the fact that Hyde County, up to this point, had not received the normal level of rainfall that is received every year. Yet, Fairfield was still flooded. He stated that Fairfield needs emergency pumps, and that those pumps would only be operated when needed. Mr. Simmons expressed his frustration that himself and others have “spent ten to fifteen years fighting the same fight and telling the same story.” He drove home that now is the time for solutions, especially after the significant crop and property damage due to flooding.

Mr. Mann reiterated that the flooding received during the month of July was not the cause of a major storm, yet it was still very detrimental to a lot of people. He cited the closure of the Fairfield Solid Waste Site due to flooding.

Manager Noble stated that despite the damages, the County does not have the authority to assign a Declaration of Disaster, but instead that power is given to the State of North Carolina.

After Mr. Simmons and Mr. Mann had concluded, two citizens from Fairfield entered the meeting to give a first-hand account of how the excessive rain flooded their property. The property owner stated that their septic system had been flooded, and the smell was very strong within the home. He shared that his son has his own business next to his property, but clients could not get in or out of property due to the flood water. He expressed his growing concern about the weather forecast for later in the week, which predicts ten more days of rain.

Before returning to his seat, Mr. Simmons thanked the NC Forestry Service, Manager Noble, and Economic Planner and Developer Richard Mann for their help in securing emergency pumps. Manager Noble said that while emergency pumps do not pump the same volume that stationary pumps do, she was happy to help.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the Resolution Requesting State and Federal Assistance for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resiliency. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Vice Chairman Swindell stated he could only imagine how much worse the flooding would have been if the lake and canal had not been so dry prior to the rainfall received in July, as Mattamuskeet Lake was about 1 ½ feet lower than its normal volume.

Manager Noble also noted that the Mill Ditch Project is moving forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public Comments are a time for the public to make comments to the County Commissioners. Comments should be kept to three (3) minutes or less and comments should be directed to the entire Board and not to individual members, the staff or to other members of the public. Comments requesting assistance will typically be referred to the County Manager for follow-up or for Board action at a future meeting.

Community School's Coordinator Angie Kerr, stood to give her public comment. She, being a resident of Hyde County Drainage System #7, gave her thanks to everyone who has been and is continuing to work on drainage improvements for Fairfield. She stated that the flooding had moved three miles out on Piney Wood Road. She, like Vice Chairman Swindell and our guest, feared to imagine the impact if Hyde County had received its typical yearly rainfall.

She continued by talking about the 4H Programs in Hyde County that are available to every child. They are overcoming financial barriers through scholarships. She commented fondly on a program where children were able to dissect squids and the conversations the kids had on the bus ride home. She also spoke about a program that allows children to speak with community members and make connections with local history and land. She assured community members that 4H is not just for young children, but also for adolescents ages thirteen through nineteen. 4H also works very closely with Mattamsukeet School, in which they have created several new clubs. One being in collaboration with FFA for livestock storage, for children who want to participate in the livestock show but cannot keep their animal at home.

She also spoke about NC Kids Vote, which brings civic awareness. The program allows children to learn about voting and meet with those running for office while learning about campaigning.

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION:

1) EMS Fellowship Program

EMS Chief Brook Cox requested the Board to approve a Letter of Agreement between East Carolina University's EMS Fellowship Program and Hyde County EMS, pending review and approval by the County Attorney. This five-year agreement, effective July 1, 2026, establishes Hyde County EMS as a participating educational site for EMS Fellows. This agreement outlines the responsibilities of both parties regarding clinical supervision, education, evaluation, and compliance with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards. Participation in the program provides EMS Fellows with supervised field experience while supporting the advancement of emergency medical education and fostering collaboration between Hyde County EMS and ECU Health/ECU. Board approval is requested, contingent upon final review and approval by the County Attorney.

Chief Cox expressed how she wanted to bring people into the fold to see what EMS personnel actually do, and to be immersed in that environment.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the EMS Fellowship Program. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

2) Trillium Regional Advisory Board - Appointment

Manager Noble asked that the Board consider the appointment of Anna Schafer to the Trillium North Central Regional Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term previously held by Luana Gibbs. Ms. Schafer will serve as Hyde County's representative on the Advisory Board, providing input on behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, substance use, and related services with the Trillium Health Resources region.

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the appointment of Anna Schafer. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

3) Interim Health Director - Appointment

Manager Noble requested the Board consider the approval of an Educational Assistance Agreement between the Hyde County Health Department and Melissa Sadler, RN, in connection with her appointment as Interim Health Director, effective August 1, 2026. The agreement outlines the requirements for Mrs. Salder to complete a qualifying bachelor's degree by May 2030 in order to meet the North Carolina Division of Public Health requirements for permanent Health Director status. The agreement also establishes terms for educational reimbursement, academic progress, and continued employment obligations.

Mrs. Salder stood to answer questions. She explained that she has been with the Hyde County Health Department for fourteen years, and her position as Interim Health Director was recommended by the Health Board.

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the appointment of Melissa Salder, RN. Chairman Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

4) Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners - Appointment

Manager Noble asked that the Board consider the appointment of Maria Stotesberry as Deputy Clerk to the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. As Deputy Clerk, Ms. Stotesberry will assist the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and will be authorized to perform the duties of the Clerk in the Clerk's absence, including preparing and maintaining Board records, attesting official documents, assisting with administration of Board meetings, and carrying out other statutory responsibilities. Approval of this appointment will ensure continuity of operations, provide additional administrative support to the Clerk to the Board, and maintain compliance with North Carolina General Statutes governing the duties of the Clerk.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the appointment of Maria Stotesberry. Chairman Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

5) Amended Engelhard Airport PBO

Manager Noble presented the Amended Engelhard Airport PBO for Board approval. The amendment is for the Runway 11-29 Extension and Turnarounds, Runway Rehabilitation, PAPI Replacement, and Hangar and Taxiway Project. The amendment updates the project budget to reflect additional grant funding and revised project costs, bringing the total project budget to \$11,735,446. Approval of the amended ordinance will authorize the updated budget and ensure the project continues in accordance with the funding agreements and applicable North Carolina Department of Transportation requirements.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the Amended Engelhard Airport PBO. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

6) Amendment to the Water Tank Rehabilitation & Resiliency PBO

Manager Noble presented the Amendment to the Water Tank Rehabilitation & Resiliency Project Budget Ordinance. The Board is requested to consider approval of an amendment to the Water Tank Rehabilitation & Resiliency Project Budget Ordinance. The amendment updates the project budget to reflect additional funding from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant and the required local match, bringing the total project budget to \$1,638,703. Approval of the amended ordinance will authorize the revised project budget and ensure continued compliance with the funding requirements of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

Commissioner Berry motioned to approve the project budget ordinance. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

7) Mattamuskeet Lodge Variance

Manager Noble presented a request for a Floodplain Variance under Variance Procedure C(1) of the Hyde County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for the rehabilitation of the historic Mattamuskeet Lodge. The requested variance is necessary to facilitate the repair and preservation of the structure while maintaining its historic character and integrity. In accordance with the ordinance, the Board must determine that the proposed rehabilitation will not preclude the Lodge's continued designation as a historic structure and that the variance granted is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the building. If approved, the Board will adopt the required findings and authorize the issuance of the variance in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal floodplain management regulations.

Manager Noble was quick to mention that the project for the Mattamuskeet Lodge is going very well, and that they are working towards a contract for wastewater treatment.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the Floodplain Variance. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

8) Shallow Draft Grant Applications

Manager Noble presented two Shallow Draft Grant Applications to the Board, and explained that the County needs to apply in order to provide dredging maintenance to Big Foot Slough and Sloop Channel areas. These areas are vital to keep the ferries running and visitors coming. There are no matching funds needed for the program.

Chairman Matthews motioned to approve the Shallow Draft Grant Applications. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

BUDGET MATTERS:

Manager Noble reviewed several budget revisions with the Board for approval. The first was submitted by Interim Health Director Melissa Salder in regards to a Child Fatality Prevention Team, where money was taken from salaries, FICA, group insurance, and retirement to pay for child health revenue.

The second budget revision was in regards to unexpected overages in various departments as the 2025-2026 fiscal year has come to a close. Departments and programs affected include IT, Human Resources, Tax, Register of Deeds, Public Buildings, Drainage, Solid Waste, Economic Development, Co-operative Extension, the Health Department, JCPC, Department of Social Services, Public Safety, State Conveyance to support Utilities, Utilities, and Ocracoke Occupancy Tax. Transfers have been made between expenditure lines within departments and funds, with the exception of Solid Waste. Fund balance appropriated was used to balance overages in the Solid Waste Department primarily for increased disposal fees.

Vice Chairman Swindell asked for a motion to approve all the listed budget revisions as a blanket. Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the budget revisions. Chairman Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Jan Moore attended several county fundraisers, met with the Albemarle Commission about flood mitigation and preapproved a MOU between themselves and Hyde County, attended an adult softball game on August 1st, a retirement luncheon for former Health

Director Luana Gibbs, and made an appearance at a lunch service dedicated to new Hyde County teachers at the Swan Quarter Baptist Church. She has been working with Earl Pugh in regards to getting Laurie Buckhout to visit the mainland which will be taking place on August 14th. They are still finalizing which places will be visited, but Commissioner Moore knows she will be visiting the Engelhard Medical Center, the Mattamuskeet Lodge, and possibly various fishhouses and Mattamuskeet School.

Commissioner Thomas Midgette has continued his work with the food trucks, which he was grateful to note finally had meat again this week instead of just vegetables. He also met with Trillium where their biggest concern was related to DSS being required to recertify for Medicaid every six months, which he noted will put unnecessary strain on staff.

Commissioner Jeffery Berry gave thanks to Bob Steinberg for his help in bringing awareness and attempting to gather aid for those affected by the flood water in Fairfield. He also thanked Senator Bobby Hanig for his help in helping keep the ferries running. He also noted that the Senior Center is having a difficult time finding enough drivers for Meals on Wheels, and asked that anyone who might be able to volunteer would reach out to the Senior Center.

Vice Chairman Shannon Swindell gave his thanks to all those working with the 4H programs, and how they are building a regional peer group that will not be stranger to other counties. He specifically thanked Lee Brimage, and said that those involved in the 4H program really have “their hearts in it.”

Chairman Randal Mathews met with the Civic Business Association and, in regards to the new regulations for the ferry division, he said the only thing the Board could do is ask for a delay in ferry legislation.

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble declined to give her management report, but assured the Board that herself and County staff have been working very diligently on various projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hearing no comment from the public, Chairman Mathews moved to adjourn the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

Commissioner Berry motioned to enter into closed session at 2:38 p.m.. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to exit the closed session at 3:31p.m. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

ADJORN:

Commissioner Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Swindell.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 2nd day of September, 2026.

Attest:

Richard Mann
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Randal Mathews
Chairman, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachments:

1. RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR SHALLOW DRAFT NAVIGATION CHANNEL DREDGING TO SUPPORT SAFE AND EFFICIENT FERRY TRAVEL FROM OCRACOE TO HATTERAS ISLAND THROUGH SLOOP CHANNEL, BARNEY SLOUGH AND/OR ROLLINSON CHANNEL

2. RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR SHALLOW DRAFT NAVIGATION CHANNEL DREDGING TO SUPPORT SAFE AND EFFICIENT FERRY TRAVEL TO AND FROM OCRACOE ISLAND THROUGH BIG FOOT SLOUGH

3. SLOOP CHANNEL, ROLLINSON CHANNEL & BARNEY SLOUGH FY2026-2027 MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE

4. Resolution Requesting State and Federal Assistance for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resiliency

5. Amended Hyde County Engelhard Airport Runway 11-29 Extension & Turnarounds, Runway Rehabilitation, PAPI Replacement & Hanger and Taxiline Project Budget Ordinance

6. AMENDED WATER TANK REHABILITATION & RESILIENCY PROJECT PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE

7. Hyde County - Dredging Big Flood Slough FY 2026-27 Shallow Draft Navigation Channel and Aquatic Weed Fund Project Budget Ordinance

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Brook Cox, EMS Chief
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Aviation Response Paramedic (ARP) Pilot Program – 60-Day Evaluation

SUMMARY: EMS Chief Brook Cox will present an overview and evaluation of Hyde County's 60-day Aviation Response Paramedic (ARP) Pilot Program, conducted in partnership with Code Blue Resources LLC (CBR). The presentation will cover program implementation, operational experience, outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned. Chief Cox will also provide an assessment of the program's effectiveness in supplementing ground EMS operations and its potential for future use.

RECOMMEND: DISCUSSION

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Brook Cox, EMS Chief

Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Life-Saving Award Presentation

SUMMARY: Sharon Selby, Kristyn Ussery, and Michael Clements will be recognized as recipients of the Life Saver Award for their courageous actions and efforts that helped save a life. The presentation will honor their quick response, compassion, and commitment to making a difference in a critical situation.

RECOMMEND: RECOGNIZE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Ryan Bishop, Tax Collector
Attachment: Yes (handed out at meeting)

ITEM TITLE: August 2026 Tax Collections Report

SUMMARY: The tax administrator will present the August tax collections report.

RECOMMEND: ACCEPT REPORT

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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☐ BERRY

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Citizens
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

SUMMARY: Citizens are afforded an opportunity at this time to comment on issues they feel may be of importance to the Commissioners and to their fellow citizens.

Comments should be kept to (3) minutes and directed to the entire Board, not just one individual Commissioner, staff member or to a member of the audience.

Time for one person cannot be used by another person.

Comments that reflect the need for additional assistance will be directed to the County Manager or referred to a future meeting agenda.

RECOMMEND: Receive comments.

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Manager, Kris Cahoon Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTIES OF BEAUFORT, BRUNSWICK, CARTERET, CRAVEN, CURRITUCK, DARE, HYDE, NEW HANOVER, AND PAMLICO REQUESTING GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WAIVE ALL TOLLS AND FEES AFFECTING NORTH CAROLINA FERRY ROUTES FOR LOCALLY REGISTERED VEHICLES

SUMMARY: The resolution is a joint effort by Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover and Pamlico counties. It asks Gov. Josh Stein and the N.C. Department of Transportation to waive ferry tolls for personal and commercial vehicles registered in counties with ferry terminals.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

Ferry Division Tolling Implementation

Legislative Requirements, Implementation Schedule and Initial Approach

August 26, 2026

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

For the best experience...



Microphones will remain muted during the presentation. Questions can be submitted through the Q&A panel. During the discussion period, we may invite participants to come off mute to ask questions directly.

Note: This meeting is being recorded.

Today's Discussion

-  **Why Statewide Ferry Tolling is Being Implemented**
-  **What the Legislation Requires**
-  **What is Decided and What is Still Being Evaluated**
-  **High-Level Implementation Schedule**
-  **NCDOT's Initial Implementation Approach**
-  **Public and Stakeholder Engagement**
-  **Next Steps**



Why Statewide Ferry Tolling Is Being Implemented

State law directs NCDOT to establish tolls across the statewide ferry system

- North Carolina Session Law 2026-41 requires the Board of Transportation, in consultation with the Ferry Division, to establish tolls on all ferry routes beginning January 1, 2027.
- Tolling will extend across the statewide system, including routes that have historically been free.
- Toll revenue is directed to the Ferry Capital Special Fund for vessel replacement.
- NCDOT's responsibility is to implement the requirement in a way that is practical, transparent, and responsive to customers and communities.



What the Legislation Requires

Several elements are established by law

Required by law

- Begin collecting tolls on all ferry routes by January 1, 2027.
- Establish toll rates to fund the cost of vessel replacement, in accordance with a specified replacement schedule.

Decision authority

- Recommendations on toll rates and rate-setting methodology will be presented to the Board of Transportation at the October 8th board meeting.
- The Board of Transportation will consider and establish the toll rates and rate-setting methodology at the November 5th board meeting.



Passes and Exemptions

The legislation identifies specific passes and exemptions

Exemptions

- The NCDOT Secretary may authorize toll waivers during emergencies declared by the Governor. N.C.G.S. § 136-82(b2)
- School buses and other school vehicles transporting students are exempt. N.C.G.S. § 136-82(b1)
- Passengers required to attend court for jury duty or under subpoena are exempt. N.C.G.S. § 7A.312(a)

Passes

- Vendor Priority Pass - Vehicles providing commercial goods and services may purchase a \$150 annual pass that provides priority boarding. N.C.G.S. § 136-82(f3)
- Residential Commuter Pass - Coastal area residents and active-duty military are eligible for a \$150 annual commuter pass (systemwide). N.C.G.S. § 136-82(b3)
 - N.C.G.S. § 113A-103(2) defines the following as coastal counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.



What Is Still Being Evaluated

The law establishes the requirement; several implementation decisions remain ahead

Under evaluation

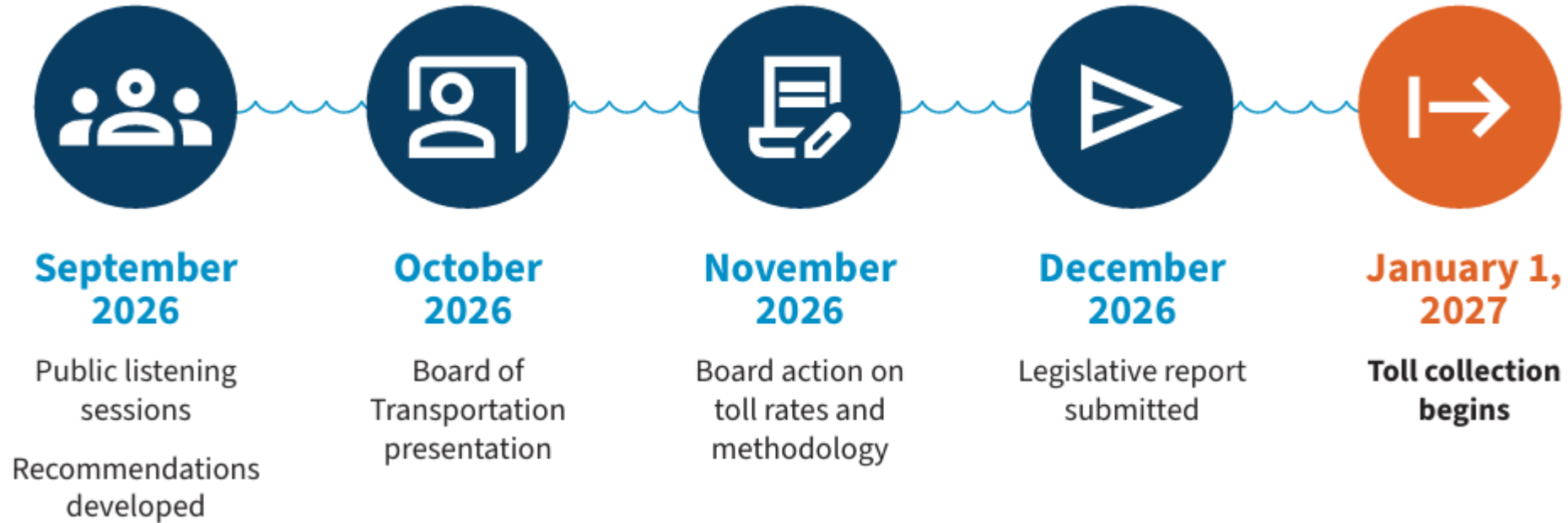
- Toll rates and rate setting methodology
- Toll collection and payment methods
- Ticketing and account-management options
- Terminal infrastructure and traffic flow
- Staffing and operating procedures
- Residential commuter pass and vendor priority pass administration
- Customer support

Public input needed

- Customer and community impacts
- Affordability and frequent-user considerations
- Payment method preferences
- Terminal and route-specific operating concerns
- Information and support customers will need



Phase I Milestones



**Subject to change*



Our Initial Implementation Approach

The initial approach is guided by four priorities

Meet the legislative requirement

Minimize service disruption

Consider affordability and customer needs

Listen and be transparent



Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Public input will help shape how tolling is implemented



What engagement can inform

- Payment options and accessibility
- Commuter and priority pass administration
- Terminal operations and customer experience
- Route-specific concerns
- Tourism and business impacts
- Communications and customer-support needs

What engagement cannot change



- The legislative requirement to implement statewide tolling by January 1, 2027
- Toll exemptions and pass eligibility requirements



Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Public input will help shape how tolling is implemented

Ways to participate

- In-person listening sessions
- Written comments
- Online feedback at publicinput.com/ferry-tolling
- Email Comments to ferry-tolling@publicinput.com
- Phone: **984-205-6615**, Project Code **10744**
- Stakeholder discussions

Comment Period Ends
September 14, 2026



Listening Sessions	
Date & Time	Location
Tuesday, Sept. 1 6-8 p.m.	Washington Beaufort County Community College
Wednesday, Sept. 2 6-8 p.m.	Grantsboro Pamlico Community College – Delamar Center
Thursday, Sept. 3 6-8 p.m.	Knotts Island Knotts Island Elementary School
Tuesday, Sept. 8 6-8 p.m.	Hatteras Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
Wednesday, Sept. 9 6-8 p.m.	Ocracoke Ocracoke School

Q & A Session

If all questions cannot be answered during the allotted time, please submit comments or questions online or via email by 9/14.

Online: [**publicinput.com/ferry-tolling**](https://publicinput.com/ferry-tolling)

Email: [**ferry-tolling@publicinput.com**](mailto:ferry-tolling@publicinput.com)

Phone: **984-205-6615**, Project Code **10744**



Board of Commissioners

Randal Mathews, Chair
Shannon Swindell, Vice-Chair
Jan Moore
Jeffrey Berry
Thomas Midgette

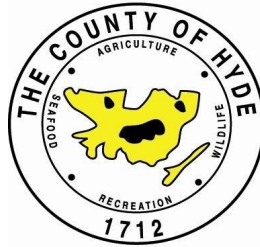
COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885
252-926-4400
252-926-3701 Fax

Kris Cahoon Noble
County Manager

Franz Holscher
County Attorney

Richard Mann
Clerk to the Board



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTIES OF BEAUFORT, BRUNSWICK, CARTERET, CRAVEN, CURRITUCK, DARE, HYDE, NEW HANOVER, AND PAMLICO REQUESTING GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WAIVE ALL TOLLS AND FEES AFFECTING NORTH CAROLINA FERRY ROUTES FOR LOCALLY REGISTERED VEHICLES

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 257, the 2025 Appropriations Act, amends Article 6 of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes to impose tolls on all ferry routes in North Carolina and to increase tolls on currently existing ferry routes according to route destination and vehicle size; and

WHEREAS, ferries serve as the primary, and in some cases exclusive, highways and bridges for the residents, commuters, and emergency services of eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, and Pamlico counties rely on these state-maintained marine corridors daily to access employment, medical care, education, and essential goods; and

WHEREAS, mainland residents of North Carolina enjoy free, un-tolled access to state-maintained roads, highways, and bridges funded by the general tax base to which coastal residents also contribute; and

WHEREAS, imposing additional transit fees on local citizens simply because they reside in a coastal region creates an unfair system of double taxation; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden of new or increased tolls will disproportionately harm local working families, small businesses, and fixed-income retirees who have no viable alternative transit routes; and

WHEREAS, a fair and equitable solution must distinguish between daily local commuters who utilize the ferry system as an essential highway and seasonal tourism traffic that utilizes the system for recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Boards of Commissioners of the Counties of Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, and Pamlico, North Carolina, that:

1. **The member counties strongly request** all Tolls and Fees affecting North Carolina Ferry Routes be waived for all vehicles registered in counties with Ferry Terminals.
2. **The member counties humbly urge** the Honorable Governor Josh Stein and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to waive all Tolls or Fees for Vehicles registered in counties with Ferry Terminals and to create a permanent waiver exempting all locally registered personal and commercial vehicles from ferry tolls.
3. **The member counties request** that any necessary state revenue adjustments focus strictly on non-resident, seasonal tourism traffic rather than penalizing local citizens.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of September, 2026.

By: _____
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
County of Hyde

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Manager, Kris Cahoon Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND § 136-82. TO INCLUDE PRIORITY LOADING FOR OCRACOKE RESIDENTS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY: This resolution serves as a plea to the NC General Assembly to change General Statute to continue to allow priority boarding of on the Ocracoke - Hatteras Ferry Route.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Article 6.

Ferries, etc., and Toll Bridges.

§ 136-82. Department of Transportation to establish and maintain ferries.

(a) Powers of Department. - The Department of Transportation is vested with authority to provide for the establishment and maintenance of ferries connecting the parts of the State highway system, whenever in its discretion the public good may require, and shall prescribe and collect tolls on ferry routes in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. In addition, and to accomplish the purpose of this section, the Department of Transportation is authorized to acquire, own, lease, charter, or otherwise control all necessary vessels, boats, terminals, or other facilities required for the proper operation of the ferries or to enter into contracts with persons, firms, or corporations for the operation thereof and to pay the reasonable sums that in the opinion of the Department of Transportation represent the fair value of the public service rendered.

(b) Tolling of Certain Ferry Routes. - The Board of Transportation shall establish tolls on the passenger-only Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry route. The Board of Transportation shall continue tolling the following ferry routes:

(1) Southport-Fort Fisher.

(2) Cedar Island-Ocracoke.

(3) Swan Quarter-Ocracoke.

(b1) Untolled Ferry Routes. - Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, ferry routes are exempt from tolls. The Board of Transportation shall not establish tolls on a ferry route exempt from tolls.

(b2) Emergency Suspension of Tolling. - The Secretary of Transportation may suspend the collection of tolls for any ferry route serving an emergency area, as declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20 or G.S. 166A-19.22, for the duration of the state of emergency.

(c) Revisions of Tolls. - The Board of Transportation may change toll rates or toll-setting methodology. The Department of Transportation shall report to the Fiscal Research Division, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, and all affected local transportation planning organizations 30 days prior to any change in toll rates or change in the toll setting methodology by the Board of Transportation.

(c1) Reserved for future codification purposes.

(c2) Ferry Capital Special Fund. - The Ferry Capital Special Fund is established as a special fund separate from the Highway Fund within the Department of Transportation.

(d) Use of Toll Proceeds. - The Department of Transportation shall deposit the proceeds from tolls collected on North Carolina Ferry System routes and route-generated receipts authorized under subsection (f) of this section to fund codes within the Ferry Capital Special Fund for each of the Highway Divisions in which system terminals are located and fares are earned. For the purposes of this subsection, fares are earned based on the terminals from which a passenger trip originates and terminates. Commuter pass receipts shall be deposited proportionately to each fund code based on the distribution of trips originating and terminating in each Highway Division. The proceeds deposited to each fund code shall be used exclusively for prioritized North Carolina Ferry System ferry passenger vessel replacement projects in the Division in which the proceeds are earned. Proceeds may be used to fund ferry passenger vessel replacement projects or supplement funds allocated for ferry passenger vessel replacement projects approved in the Transportation Improvement Program.

(e) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-94, s. 35.1(a), effective July 1, 2016.

(f) Authority to Generate Certain Receipts. - The Department of Transportation, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may operate or contract for the following receipt-generating activities. The proceeds collected on North Carolina Ferry System routes from receipts generated under this subsection shall be deposited and used in accordance with subsection (d) of this section. The proceeds collected from receipts generated from the Shipyard shall be deposited and used in accordance with subsection (f1) of this section. [The activities are as follows:]

(1) Operation of, concessions on the ferries and at ferry facilities to provide to passengers on the ferries food, drink, and other refreshments, personal comfort items, internet access, and souvenirs publicizing the ferry system.

(2) Sponsorships, including, but not limited to, the sale of naming rights to any ferry vessel, ferry route, or ferry facility.

(3) Advertising on or within any ferry vessel or at any ferry facility, including, but not limited to, display advertising and advertising delivered to passengers through the use of video monitors, public address systems installed in passenger areas, and other electronic media.

(4) Any other receipt-generating activity not otherwise forbidden by applicable law pertaining to public health or safety.

The Department may issue rules to implement this subsection.

(f1) Use of Receipts Generated From Shipyard. - The Department of Transportation shall deposit the proceeds from receipts generated under subsection (f) of this section from activities performed by the North Carolina State Shipyard to a fund code within the Ferry Capital Special

Fund to be used exclusively for improvements to the Shipyard, including equipment and associated infrastructure.

(f2) Ferry Systemwide Fund Code and Disposition of Marine Vessels. - There is created in the Ferry Capital Special Fund a Ferry Systemwide fund code. The funds in this fund code shall be used for the acquisition or construction of marine vessels to maintain existing service capacity by replacing marine vessels that have reached the end of their useful life, as determined by the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation shall decommission and dispose of a marine vessel subject to replacement in a timely manner after the replacement marine vessel is operationalized. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any proceeds received from the disposition of a marine vessel shall be deposited to the fund code established under this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the Department of Transportation from using funds held in the fund code established under this subsection to supplement funds deposited to a fund code under subsection (d) of this section to use exclusively for prioritized Ferry System ferry passenger vessel replacement projects in the Highway Division in which the funds deposited to the fund code under subsection (d) of this section are earned. For purposes of this subsection, the term "marine vessels" means tugs, barges, dredges, and ferries other than passenger-only vessels.

(f3) Priority Boarding Fee for Certain Vehicles. - For a vehicle providing commercial goods and services, the Department of Transportation shall charge an annual fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for an annual pass that entitles the vehicle issued the annual pass to priority when boarding a ferry vessel. Only one annual pass per vehicle shall be issued per year. Except as authorized under this subsection, the Department of Transportation shall not provide priority boarding to a ferry vessel to any vehicle providing commercial goods and services.

(f4) Priority Boarding for Ocracoke Residents. - The Board of Transportation shall establish a program that allows for the issuance of priority boarding passes for residents of Ocracoke who are operating a vehicle registered at an Ocracoke address and utilizing , including any related fees, for resident vehicle priority boarding for the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry route. To evidence residency for the purpose of priority boarding applications under this subsection, a person must provide a valid drivers license and a current vehicle registration with a valid Ocracoke address. The Board of Transportation shall set a fee to cover the costs of administering this program.

(f5) Priority Boarding -- The Board of Transportation shall establish a priority boarding system that balances the demand of vehicles bearing a priority boarding pass with general demand.

(g) Confidentiality of Personal Information. - Identifying information obtained by the Department related to operation of the ferry system is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and is subject to the disclosure limitations in 18 U.S.C. § 2721 of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act. The Department shall maintain the confidentiality of all information required to be kept confidential under 18 U.S.C. § 2721(a), as well as any financial information, transaction history, and information related to the collection of a toll or user fee from a person,

including, but not limited to, photographs or other recorded images or automatic vehicle identification or driver account information generated by radio-frequency identification or other electronic means. The Department may use identifying information only for purposes of collecting and enforcing tolls. Nothing in this section is intended to limit the right of any person to examine that person's own account information, or the right of any party, by authority of a proper court order, to inspect and examine identifying information.

(h) Transfer of Funds. - Notwithstanding G.S. 136-44.2(f), G.S. 136-44.2(f1), and any other provision of law to the contrary, beginning with the 2021-2022 fiscal year, no later than 45 days after the first day of the fiscal year, the Department of Transportation shall transfer from the Highway Fund to the Ferry Capital Special Fund all unexpended funds appropriated to the Ferry Division's budget from the prior fiscal year. Any funds categorized as unencumbered shall be deposited in the Ferry Systemwide fund code. Any funds categorized as encumbered shall be deposited into a specified fund code for encumbrances.

(i) Semiannual Report. - No later than March 1 and September 1 of each year, the Ferry Division shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division that contains the total cost to operate each ferry route. (1927, c. 223; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1989, c. 752, s. 101; 1995, c. 211, s. 1; 2011-145, s. 31.30(a); 2012-142, s. 24.18(a); 2013-360, s. 34.13(b); 2014-58, s. 11(a); 2014-115, s. 56.5; 2015-241, s. 29.23A; 2016-94, s. 35.1(a); 2017-57, s. 34.28B; 2018-136, 3rd Ex. Sess., s. 5.14; 2021-180, s. 41.15(a); 2022-6, s. 19.3; 2024-15, s. 14(a); 2025-25, s. 29(3).)

Board of Commissioners

Randal Mathews, Chair
Shannon Swindell, Vice-Chair
Jan Moore
Jeffrey Berry
Thomas Midgette

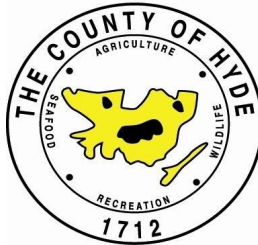
COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885
252-926-4400
252-926-3701 Fax

Kris Cahoon Noble
County Manager

Franz Holscher
County Attorney

Richard Mann
Clerk to the Board



**A RESOLUTION OF THE HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND §
136-82. TO PRESERVE AND CODIFY PRIORITY LOADING FOR OCRACOKE
RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, *"Article 6., Ferries, etc., and Toll Bridges. of § 136-82. Department of Transportation to establish and maintain ferries"*, gives the Department of Transportation authority to provide for the establishment and maintenance of ferries connecting the parts of the State highway system, whenever in its discretion the public good may require, and shall prescribe and collect tolls on ferry routes;

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is authorized to acquire, own, lease, charter, or otherwise control all necessary vessels, boats, terminals, or other facilities required for the proper operation of the ferries or to enter into contracts with persons, firms, or corporations for the operation thereof and to pay the reasonable sums that in the opinion of the Department of Transportation represent the fair value of the public service rendered;

WHEREAS, § 136-82. (f3) includes Priority Boarding Fee for Certain Vehicles. - For a vehicle providing commercial goods and services, the Department of Transportation shall charge an annual fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for an annual pass that entitles the vehicle issued the annual pass to priority when boarding a ferry vessel. Only one annual pass per vehicle shall be issued per year. Except as authorized under this subsection, the Department of Transportation shall not provide priority boarding to a ferry vessel to any vehicle providing commercial goods and services.

WHEREAS, priority loading for Ocracoke residents was implemented by the NC Ferry Division in recognition of the need to obtain essential and life-saving services and has been operational for 40 years, demonstrating that such a system is administratively workable and can coexist with the transportation needs of visitors and the general traveling public. The continued viability of a year-round community on Ocracoke depends upon the ability of residents, employees, small-business owners, public

servants, teachers, health-care providers and essential members of the community to travel to and from the island with reasonable reliability;

WHEREAS, Ocracoke Island has no local hospital, major medical specialists, dentists, large and/or specialty stores, or veterinary care, requiring residents to travel off-island for basic needs;

WHEREAS, ferries serve as a lifeline connection for Ocracoke families, being the only way to transport vehicles, home repair supplies, and everyday necessities onto the isolated island;

WHEREAS, traveling via ferry is a daily function for Ocracoke residents with priority lanes allowing locals and essential workers to return to their homes and businesses without waiting hours behind heavy tourist traffic, protecting the daily lives and livelihoods of year-round residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Hyde County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina General Assembly to amend § 136-82. to include priority loading for Ocracoke Residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Hyde County Board of Commissioners requestS the language of “*Article 6., Ferries, etc., and Toll Bridges., § 136-82. Department of Transportation to establish and maintain ferries*” be amended and adopted as follows:

(f4) Priority Boarding for Ocracoke Residents. – The Board of Transportation shall establish a program that allows for the issuance of priority boarding passes for residents of Ocracoke who are operating a vehicle registered at an Ocracoke address and utilizing the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry route. To evidence residency for the purpose of priority boarding applications under this subsection, a person must provide a valid drivers license and a current vehicle registration with a valid Ocracoke address. The Board of Transportation shall set a fee to cover the costs of administering this program.

(f5) Priority Boarding -- The Board of Transportation shall establish a priority boarding system that balances the demand of vehicles bearing a priority boarding pass with general demand.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of September, 2026.

By: _____
Chairman, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager

Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Reappointment to the ABC Board – Glenda Williams

SUMMARY: The Board is asked to consider the reappointment of Glenda Williams to serve another term on the Hyde County ABC Board. Ms. Williams' reappointment will allow for continued representation and participation in the oversight and operations of the ABC Board.

RECOMMEND: REAPPOINT MS. WILLIAMS TO THE HYDE COUNTY ABC BOARD

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Manager, Kris Cahoon Noble

ITEM TITLE: Southern Albemarle Association Delegates List

SUMMARY: The Southern Albemarle Association was formed in 1935 to advocate for paved roads between the County Seats in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties. As time went on, the Association expanded and began to advocate for improvements to all modes of transportation in it's six county region. The Association meets several times per year, and is comprised of Citizens, Elected Officials, County Staff, and Municipal Staff. SAA also works closely with NCDOT Divisions 1 & 2, the Albemarle RPO, and the Mid-East RPO.

Attached please find the Hyde County delegates list for the SAA. This list includes previous delegates as provided to me by the President of the Association and the Vice President, Hyde County resident, Phillip Holloway. The attached delegates will be invited to attend the SAA meetings.

Mr. Holloway, intends to work with the Hyde County Economic Development Director over the coming year to add/remove delegates as needed to reflect the transportation needs of Hyde County.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE DELEGATE LIST

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Mrs. Brandy Pugh
PO Box 337
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Mrs. Mary Armstrong
22 Canal St
Fairfield NC 27826

Earl & Diane Pugh
32 Nebraska Rd
Engelhard NC 27824

Art & Alice Keeney
PO Box 157
Engelhard NC 27824

Jerry & Judy Harris
17700 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Mrs. Delia Mooney
172 Canal St
Fairfield NC 27826

Ms. Marlis Smith
8201 Piney Woods Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Ms. Meredith Nicholson
275 North Lake Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Ms. Glenda Williams
4466 Loop Rd
Scranton NC 27875

Mrs. Jane Gibbs
8366 North Lake Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Mrs. Anita Fletcher
30252 Hwy 264
Engelhard NC 27824

Dick & Sandra Tunnell
809 Main St
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Mac & Sharon Gibbs
915 White Plains Rd
Engelhard NC 27824

Johnny Gibbs, Airport Mgr
PO Box 189
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Michael & Elaine Adams
1920 Swamp Rd
Engelhard NC 27824

Phillip Holloway
1222 Main St
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Ms. Elizabeth Gurganus
PO Box 4
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Ms. Gwen Newman
20451 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Ms. Lora Byrd
2056 Newlands Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Mrs. Janet Russ
9010 Piney Woods Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Ms. Tina Eakes
8489 Piney Woods Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Mrs. Beverly Paul
PO Box 205
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Graham & Sharon Spencer
9790 North Lake Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Bennett & Kay Emory
3579 Quarter Rd
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Mr. David Mason
989 Bridgman Rd
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Ms. Paula Oliver
8704 Piney Woods Rd
Fairfield NC 27826

Ms. Julie Blevin
21522 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Chase Luker
23580 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Lee Brimmage
20791 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Sharon Sadler
20375 Hwy 264
Swan Quarter NC 27885

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Chief Deputy Joey Williams

Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Possible Award of Emergency Management and Preparedness RFPs

SUMMARY: The County will consider the possible award of contracts associated with three Requests for Proposals focused on strengthening Hyde County's emergency management, disaster preparedness, and recovery capabilities. The RFPs include Disaster Debris Monitoring and FEMA Public Assistance Management Services; development and updating of the Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan, supporting annexes, checklists, public website version, and Continuity of Operations Plan; and Grant Writing, Appropriations, Grant Management, and Project Management Services. This agenda item is intended as a placeholder for potential awards following completion of the County's review and selection process.

RECOMMEND: DISCUSS AND APPROVE IF POSSIBLE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
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☐ MIDGETTE
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MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Chief Deputy Joey Williams
Sheriff Guire Cahoon
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: MOU – Hyde County Schools & Hyde County Sheriff’s Office

SUMMARY: The Hyde County Board of Education and Hyde County Government will consider a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the partnership between Hyde County Schools and the Hyde County Sheriff’s Office for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The MOU establishes the program’s mission, roles, responsibilities, operational procedures, and long-term goals related to school safety, positive school climate, crime prevention, and student support.

The agreement outlines the Sheriff’s Office’s current provision of SRO-related services at Ocracoke and Mattamuskeet schools, while establishing a long-term goal of expanding certified SRO coverage as funding becomes available. It also clarifies expectations regarding school discipline, searches, student questioning and arrests, critical incidents, student transportation, confidentiality, student records, and coordination between school and law enforcement personnel.

The MOU further identifies responsibilities of both parties, including grant opportunities, safety planning and training, annual review of the agreement, complaint and problem-resolution procedures, and compliance with applicable state and federal requirements. The agreement may be terminated by either party with 30 days’ written notice.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE PENDING COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVAL

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Memorandum of Understanding Between Hyde County Schools and Hyde County Government

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) will serve as the written agreement between the Hyde County Board of Education the governing body of the Hyde County Schools (“Board” or “HCS”) and the Hyde County Government, collectively "Parties," is being executed on this 2 day of September.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to establish the needed commitment and support from both institutions.

WHEREAS, this MOU will serve to record and expand upon a series of currently provided services, guidelines, policies, and long-term goals relevant to the School Resource Officer Program, and will be the guiding document for both entities and their employees.

WHEREAS, this MOU should not be construed as limiting or impeding the basic spirit of cooperation and goodwill between the participating entities listed above or community stakeholders.

I. Purpose

This MOU establishes and delineates the mission of the Hyde County Schools and Hyde County Sheriff’s Office Partnership, as a joint cooperative effort to ensure the safety of our school campuses. Additionally, the MOU clarifies the roles and expectations and formalizes relationships between the participating entities to foster an efficient and cohesive program that will promote positive relationships between the sheriff, deputies, school staff, students and families to promote a safe and positive learning environment and decrease the number of youth formally referred to the juvenile justice system.

I. Mission

The mission of the Hyde County Schools and Hyde County Sheriff’s Office Partnership is to promote school safety by building a positive school climate in which everyone feels safe, and students are supported to succeed. The partnership also seeks to reduce violent crime committed by and against youth in our community. The partnership accomplishes this mission by supporting safe, secure, and orderly learning environments for students, teachers, and staff. A deputy on campus establishes a trusting channel of communication with students, parents and teachers and establishes opportunities for regular feedback. The role of a deputy on campus is not to enforce

school discipline or punish students. Deputies are to serve as positive role models to instill in students good moral character, good judgment and discretion, good citizenship, respect for themselves and others, and a sincere concern for the school community. Deputies will provide community resources to staff, students, and/or families. Goals and objectives are to develop and enhance rapport between youth, families, staff, administrators, the community, and the sheriff's department to promote student achievement and community success.

I. Current Scope of Work

This MOU recognizes that currently the Hyde County Sheriff's Office is providing School Resource Officer ("SRO") services at both Ocracoke and Mattamuskeet, but only has one certified SRO on staff. The long-term goal of both entities is that a Hyde County Sheriff's Deputy will be hired and certified to provide the SRO services to the school. At this time, the services that the Hyde County Sheriff's Office are providing include but are not limited to; traffic enforcement in the school zone, presence during pick-up and drop off during school hours, walkthroughs of the campus during school hours to build relationships with students and staff, presence at high volume areas (ex. lunchroom, class changes), presence at sporting events or after school activities, to build community relationships, and investigation/support of any campus threat. Although there is currently not a certified SRO, the services provided by the Sheriff's Office are ensuring the mission of the SRO program (as discussed in this MOU) by a sheriff's deputy is being met with the understanding that as funding becomes available, a deputy(ies) will obtain an SRO certification.

I. Goals

Long-term Goals of HCS and HCSO partnership include:

- a. To ensure a safe learning environment for all children and adults who enter the building.
- b. To prevent and reduce potential harm related to incidents of school violence.
- c. To foster a positive school climate based on respect for all children and adults in the school.
- d. To create partnerships with behavioral health, other care providers, and resource entities (like Hyde County Hotline, Office of Social Services, etc.) in the community for student and family referrals.

The partnership is unique to the community to fulfill three overarching roles:

1. Law enforcement- both entities recognize that the school facilities house most of the county's residents in one location on a daily basis. Law enforcement will ensure the safety and security of school campuses to support student learning.
 - a. Deputies on campus are responsible for most law enforcement activities on school campuses, but not general discipline. A determination of whether an activity rises to the level that law enforcement should be involved will be determined through consultation and collaboration with the school administration. Parents, students, teachers, and other school officials should bring complaints regarding student misconduct or misbehavior to the school principal/designee. Deputies will not take student behavioral or misconduct referrals.
 - b. Arrests of students should only be used as a measure of last resort.
2. Fostering positive relationships and school climate- developing a sense of community through recognition of deputies and officials to build relationships and a network of support for students and families.
 - a. Deputies on campus primary role is to foster a positive school climate through relationship building. Deputies are welcome to engage in campus activities to build a culture of open communication and trust by, between, and among students and adults.
 - b. Crime prevention activities should include foot patrol, monitoring locations in which criminal behavior has previously occurred, analyzing crime patterns, investigating crimes, and speaking to staff and administrators about ways to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur.
3. Education- The deputies, the schools, and all support found therein should be to promote and encourage student learning. Deputies are welcome to participate in the school community and become a member of the educational team. Whether talking to students in the hallway or listening to a student presentation, or delivering presentations to staff and students, we want our partnership to be embedded in the educational fabric within the school.

V. Operational Procedures

- A. Chain of Command- A deputy on the school campuses is ultimately accountable to the Sheriff's Office chain of command. However, while at the school, the deputy is expected to cooperate with the school officials, including administrators and faculty. The deputy will abide by all school policies. The deputy will become familiar with Board policies, especially those related to use of force, searches, student discipline, and the possession of prohibited substances and items on campus. The Sheriff's Office agrees that the deputy will be trained that a school setting and interactions with students differ from public interactions.

- B. School Policy Violations- A deputy on campus is not a school disciplinarian, and violations of student conduct should be handled by the school staff. Deputies should not intervene unless there is an imminent threat to the health, safety, and/or security of students or staff. School discipline is the responsibility of the school administrator. If a deputy views potentially reprimandable behavior, the deputy should refer it to an appropriate administrator.
- C. Role in Locker, Vehicle, Personal, or other searches- A deputy on campus can be a witness to a principal search, but should only perform a search independent of school administration in an emergency situation where criminal activity is reasonably suspected, the search is reasonable in scope, and is conducted within the bounds of the Constitution.
 - 1. Strip searches are prohibited
 - 2. If a pat-down or frisk is necessary, it may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same gender, with an adult witness present.
 - 3. Unless there is an immediate and serious threat to school safety, deputies on school campuses shall not initiate or participate in physically invasive searches of a student.
- D. Interrogations- A parent/guardian must be notified if a deputy plans to question a student regarding suspected criminal wrongdoing; the deputy must allow parent/guardian presence at the questioning, and must inform the student of their Miranda Rights in age-appropriate language. If a parent/guardian cannot attend, a deputy shall only participate in the questioning of a student if accompanied by the principal or designee. A deputy shall not be involved in interrogations by a school official unless the presence of a law enforcement officer is necessary.
- E. Arrests- incidents involving public order offenses by a student (e.g. disorderly conduct, fighting, and profanity usage) that do not involve serious physical injury or a weapon, should be handled by school officials rather than treated as criminal law issues.
 - 1. Building principals and the Superintendent shall be consulted prior to an arrest.
 - 2. The parent or Guardian of the student must be notified immediately.
 - 3. Unless there is a serious and immediate threat, deputies shall not use physical force or restraints on a student.
- A. Role in Critical Incidents- a deputy will act normally as a liaison between critical personnel and the school if practical and needed.
- B. Use of force may only be implemented pursuant to Board policy and Sheriff's Office protocol as well as applicable laws, if objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances and shall not be excessive, arbitrary, or malicious.
- C. Transporting Students- No deputy shall transport any student in his or her Agency-issued vehicle except when the student is a victim of a crime, under arrest, or when other emergency circumstances exist. The deputy shall, whenever possible, notify the principal or principal's designee before removing a student from campus. Under no circumstances

may a deputy transport any student in the deputy's personal vehicle. NOTE: This does not apply to situations where a deputy wishes to transport his or her own child in his or her personal vehicle or in cases where the deputy is attending a school function as a spectator or in his or her capacity as a parent.

- D. Non-School Matters- The deputy shall not conduct any non-school investigations while serving on campus unless the investigation is pursuant to a valid subpoena or warrant or unless questioning, searching, or arresting a student on school property at that time is necessary, in the discretion of the deputy, for the success of a law enforcement investigation or to prevent injury or crime.

VI. School District Responsibilities

Hyde County Schools shall provide the following services:

- A. When offered by the state of NC, HCS will apply for SRO grants to support the development of a comprehensive SRO Program.
- B. When awarded, payment for services provided that align to the mission and goals of the Hyde County Schools/Hyde County Sheriff's Office Partnership to support the development of a comprehensive SRO Program.
- C. Access to an office, a location for files and records, and office equipment if the depot or main office is more than 3 miles from the school.
- D. The opportunity to address teachers, students, families, and administrators about the role of a deputy on campus.
- E. The opportunity to provide input regarding safety plans.
- F. The opportunity to provide training on safety procedures.

VII. Reviewing the MOU and HCS/HCSO Partnership

All parties will review the MOU annually and discuss any adjustments as needed. Any revisions will be reflected in an updated MOU, and any modifications to this MOU must be written, affixed to this MOU, and signed by both Parties to be bound.

Complaints against a deputy on campus will follow normal procedures with notice to the Superintendent and campus principal. HCS may request that a deputy be removed from campus based on complaints or incidents.

VIII. Problem Resolution

Unforeseen questions or difficulties will be resolved by the Superintendent of Hyde County Schools and the Sheriff. Both sides will endeavor to reach a solution that emphasizes the goal of providing the best and safest educational experience for the children of Hyde County.

IX. Access to Student Records

The Deputy shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and Board policies, including, but not limited to, laws, regulations, and policies regarding access to education records, provided that the Deputy shall under no circumstances be required or expected to act in a manner inconsistent with his/her duties as a law enforcement officer. The Deputy may have access to education records or to personally identifiable information of any HCS student as defined in 34 CFR 99.3 only to the extent allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable Board policies and procedures. The Deputy shall not automatically have access to education records or personally identifiable information in those records simply because the Deputy is conducting a criminal investigation involving a student or for general, non-specific purposes. School officials may, however, share relevant education records and personally identifiable information contained in those records with the Deputy if the disclosure is allowed under FERPA.

X. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Any deputy or SRO shall remain an employee of the Sheriff's Office and shall not be an employee of the Board. The Sheriff's Office shall provide the deputy with the same type of benefits, equipment, supplies, and training as that provided to their regularly employed law enforcement officers. The MOU shall not be construed as establishing a joint venture, partnership, or any principal-agent relationship for any purpose between the Sheriff's Office and the Board. Employees of the Sheriff's Office shall remain subject to the exclusive control and supervision of the Sheriff's Office, which is solely responsible for their compensation.

B. Jessica Lunsford Act. As required by N.C.G.S. § 115C-332.1, all Contractors, subcontractors, consultants, sub-consultants, and vendors shall conduct prior to the start of service and annually thereafter a review of the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, and the National Sex Offender Registry for all employees who will provide services under this contract that involve direct interaction with Board's students. For the Sheriff's Office's convenience only, all of the required registry checks may be completed at no cost by accessing the United States Office of Justice Sex Offender Public Website at <http://www.nsopw.gov/>. Any employee of the contractor, subcontractor, consultant, sub-consultant, or vendor found to be registered on any of the lists identified herein shall not perform any work under this contract and shall not be permitted to

enter property owned by Hyde County Schools or Hyde County on behalf of Hyde County Schools. Failure to comply may result in legal action and termination of the contract for default.

C. Background Checks. The Sheriff's Office will only provide deputies and SROs who have been subject to a background check. Any deputy or SRO whose background check shows that the deputy or SRO may pose a danger to a student or staff shall not be allowed on any property owned by the Board.

D. E-Verify. All parties shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes, "Verification of Work Authorization," and will provide documentation reasonably requested by the other demonstrating such compliance.

E. Confidential Information. Student Information. If, during the course of the Sheriff's Office's performance of the MOU, the Sheriff's Office should obtain any information pertaining to students' official records, the Sheriff's Office agrees to keep any such information confidential and to not disclose or permit to be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity any such student information. The MOU shall not be construed by either party to constitute a waiver of or to in any manner diminish the provisions for confidentiality of students' records. Additionally, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-401.1, Prohibition on the Disclosure of Information about Students, it is unlawful for a person who enters into a contract with a local board of education to sell personally identifiable information that is obtained from a student as a result of that person's performance under the Contract. Employee Personnel Information. If, during the course of the Sheriff's Office's performance of the MOU, the Sheriff's Office should obtain any information pertaining to employees of the Board's personnel records, the Sheriff's Office agrees to keep any such information confidential and to not disclose or permit to be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity any such personnel information.

F. Indemnification. The Sheriff's Office shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board, its officers, agents, employees and assigns from and against all claims, losses, costs, damages, expenses, attorney's fees and liability that any of them may sustain due to gross negligence or wanton or intentional misconduct by any agent of the Sheriff's Office in the performance of this MOU.

G. Termination. Either party's participation in this MOU may be terminated by that party, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other party.

H. Contract Situs and Governing Law. This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina. The venue for initiation of any such action shall be Hyde County, North Carolina.

The following representatives of the Hyde County Board of Education hereby agree to the terms of this MOU.

Chanta Rickard
Chairwoman, Hyde County Board of Education

Date

Dr. Melanie Shaver
Superintendent, Hyde County Schools

Date

The following representative of the Hyde County Government and the Hyde County Sheriff's Office hereby agrees to the terms of this MOU.

Randal G. Mathews
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Date

Sheriff Guire Cahoon
Sheriff of Hyde County

Date

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager

Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Health Department Operations – Consultative Services Agreement

SUMMARY: The Board is asked to consider, including an agreement between the Hyde County Health Department and Luana C. Gibbs for environmental health consultative services. The agreement would provide the Department with access to professional consultation and support as requested by the Health Department or designee.

The proposed agreement establishes compensation at \$85 per hour, with eligible mileage reimbursed at the applicable IRS rate, and would be effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the agreement.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
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MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
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**NORTH CAROLINA
HYDE COUNTY**

**HEALTH DIRECTOR CONSULTATIVE
SERVICES AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT (hereinafter "Agreement") is made and entered into as of the 1st day of July, 2026 (hereinafter "Effective Date") by and between **HYDE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT** (hereinafter "Department") and **LUANA C. GIBBS** (hereinafter "Contractor").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Department desires to contract with Contractor as an independent contractor, and Contractor desires to contract with Department as an independent contractor, to provide Department certain environmental health consultative services pursuant to the terms, conditions, and provisions of this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants hereinafter set forth, the receipt and legal sufficiency of which are acknowledged by each party, Department and Contractor do hereby contract and agree as follows.

1. **SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND DUTIES.** Contractor shall perform those health consultative services requested by the Department's Director or his/her designee. Such services may be performed via telephone, electronic technology, or personal visitation as requested or directed by the Department's Director or his/her designee. Contractor shall maintain a list and description of all services and activities provided hereunder for review upon request.
2. **SUPERVISION.** In the performance of his services under this Agreement, Contractor shall be under the supervision of Department's Director or his/her designee and shall carry out her duties in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations.
3. **REQUESTS FOR SERVICE.** Requests to Contractor for services under this Agreement shall be delivered to Contractor by the Department's Director or her designee. However, Contractor shall accept requests for services hereunder from any employee of the Department acting in their professional capacity.
4. **PAYMENT.** Contractor shall provide, and Department shall pay, a statement at the beginning of each month for any services provided during the previous month and any mileage reimbursement requested under Section 7. Contractor shall be paid \$85.00 per hour for services rendered. As more specifically provided for hereinafter, Contractor shall be responsible for any and all taxes that result from any payment hereunder.
5. **DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS.** The Department shall provide Contractor with any changes to internal Departmental rules, regulations, policies, or other information which may effect or influence the issues and matters for which Contractor is providing consultative services.
6. **REIMBURSEMENTS.** Department will reimburse Contractor for certain necessary expenses incurred by Contractor in the performance of this Agreement as follows.
 - a. **Vehicle:** When Contractor is performing services for Department, Contractor will provide her own vehicle and will be reimbursed the standard IRS reimbursement rate, for use of a vehicle furnished, maintained, insured, and outfitted by Contractor. The mileage reimbursement rate shall be adjusted during the term of this Agreement to reflect adjustments in the standard IRS reimbursement rate. Contractor shall be reimbursed

mileage to and from her residence when she performs services under this Agreement to compensate her for commute expenses.

- b. Equipment: All other equipment required for the performance of his services shall be furnished, maintained and insured by Contractor.

7. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** Department and Contractor agree that Contractor is an independent contractor and shall not, unless specifically authorized, represent herself as an employee or agent of the Department for any purpose in the performance of Contractor's services under this Agreement. Accordingly, Contractor shall be responsible for payment of all federal, state, and local taxes arising out of Contractor's services performed in accordance with this Agreement. For the purposes of this Agreement, such taxes shall include, but not be limited to, federal and state income, social security, and unemployment insurance taxes. Contractor, as an independent contractor, shall perform the services hereunder in a professional manner and in accordance with any applicable standards for such services.
8. **INDEMNIFICATION.** To the fullest extent permitted by law and any applicable regulations, Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless Department and its officials, agents, and employees from and against any and all direct, indirect, or consequential claims, damages, losses and expenses (including but not limited to fees and charges of attorneys and other professionals and costs related to court action or mediation) arising out of or resulting from Contractor's performance of this Agreement or the services of Contractor under this Agreement. This indemnification provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
9. **UNIFORM.** Contractor shall provide her own clothing, including footwear and other attire, and such shall be clean and of a nature so as to maintain a professional appearance and cause respect from the public.
10. **CELLULAR PHONE.** Contractor shall provide and maintain a cellular phone for her use in connection with providing the services required hereunder and she shall be available to the Department's Director and her designee(s), including contractors and Department employees, via her cellular phone in the performance of her services. Such phone shall be of a type, style, service, and condition as determined by Contractor.
11. **TERM.** This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue in effect through June 30, 2027 unless terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice given by either party to the other party. The Department may terminate this Agreement at any time in its discretion.
12. **NOTICE.** All notices required by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given by personal delivery or by first class mail as follows.

To Department:

Hyde County Health Department Director
PO Box 100, Swan Quarter, NC 27885
252-926-4178

To Contractor:

Luana C. Gibbs
109 St. Augustine Dr.
Cape Carteret, NC 28584

13. **ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement may not be assigned by Contractor to any other person or entity without the express written permission of Department.
14. **MODIFICATION.** A modification or waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be effective only if made in writing and executed with the same formality as this Agreement.
15. **PARTIAL INVALIDITY.** If any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, all other provisions shall nevertheless continue in full force and effect.
16. **SITUS.** All matters affecting the interpretation of this Agreement and the rights of the parties hereto under this Agreement shall be governed and controlled by the laws of North Carolina. The venue for any legal action taken under this Agreement shall be in the courts of Hyde County.
17. **BINDING EFFECT.** Every provision of this Agreement shall be binding upon each of the parties and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, and successors.
18. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement contains the entire understanding of the parties, and there are no representations, warranties, covenants, or undertakings other than those expressly set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Department has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in duplicate originals pursuant to proper authorization and Contractor has hereunto set his hand, one of which is retained by each of the parties, as of the day and year first above written.

(SIGNATURE PAGES TO FOLLOW)

HYDE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mike Caton

Hyde County Health Department Director

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HYDE

BOH
Chair I, Sherry Ann Harris, a Notary Public in and for the State and County
aforesaid, certify that Mike Caton, ~~Hyde County Health Department~~
Director, personally appeared before me, and ~~she~~ voluntarily acknowledged the due execution
of the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein expressed. The undersigned Notary Public
has personal knowledge of the identity of the principal or satisfactory evidence of the principal's
identity.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal, this the 27th day of August, 2026.

Sherry Ann Harris
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11-18-2029



CONTRACTOR

Luana C. Gibbs

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF _____

I, _____, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, certify that Luana C. Gibbs personally appeared before me, and he voluntarily acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein expressed. The undersigned Notary Public has personal knowledge of the identity of the principal or satisfactory evidence of the principal's identity.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal, this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

PRE-AUDIT CERTIFICATE

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

By: _____

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: CDBG-NR Project No. 21-C-4028 – Amendment No. 1: Additional Time

SUMMARY: The County will consider an amendment to its consultant services contract with Insight Consulting Group, LLC for administration and management of the Community Development Block Grant–Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Project No. 21-C-4028. Due to multiple project time extensions and additional program requirements, the consultant has provided services beyond the original scope, including additional bidding processes, expanded environmental review and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, program amendments to secure additional funding, and new grant applications.

The proposed amendment increases the contract amount by \$80,000, with the final adjustment to be determined following confirmation of additional program funding. All other provisions of the original contract will remain unchanged and in effect.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

**CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM
CDBG-NR PROJECT NUMBER 21-C-4028
AMENDMENT NO. 1 – ADDITIONAL TIME AND SERVICES AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, HYDE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, hereinafter called the COUNTY, and INSIGHT CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, (formerly Insight Planning & Development, LLC), hereinafter called the CONSULTANT, entered into a Contract for Consultant Services (Contract) dated November 9, 2023, to provide administrative and management services for the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG-NR Project Number 21-C-4028; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has executed a Grant Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, for a CDBG-NR project, for the rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of homes; and

WHEREAS, the project has required four separate time extensions, and such extensions have necessitated that the CONSULTANT perform additional services beyond the original scope, including but not limited to multiple rounds of bidding, extensive preparation of the Environmental Review Record (ERR) due to additional coordination and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the preparation and submission of program amendments to secure additional funding, and the preparation and submission of new grant applications; and

WHEREAS, the resulting change in contract cost represents a preliminary increase based on the additional services performed to date, with the final contract adjustment to be determined upon the award and confirmation of additional program funding; therefore,

THE AFOREMENTIONED CONTRACT for CONSULTANT SERVICES, dated November 9, 2023, between HYDE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, and INSIGHT CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, is hereby amended to increase the contract amount by \$80,000.

All other provisions of the original Contract remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

The COUNTY and the CONSULTANT each binds itself, its partners, successors, executors, administrators and assigns to the other party to this Amendment, and to the partners, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns of such other party, with respect to all covenants of the Amended Contract.

The COUNTY and the CONSULTANT hereby agree to the full performance of the covenants contained herein.

[Signature page to follow]

IN WITNESS HEREOF, they have executed this Amendment, this date _____.

CONSULTANT

Cindy M. Anderson, VP Administration
Insight Consulting Group, LLC

DATE _____

HYDE COUNTY

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government and Fiscal Control Act.

Corrinne Gibbs, Finance Director

DATE _____

Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager

DATE _____

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Manager, Kris Cahoon Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Introduction and Existing Conditions of the Land Use Plan - Review

SUMMARY: Hyde County is updating its Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan to place a central focus on long-term coastal resilience and flood risk adaptation through a grant from the NC Division of Coastal Management.

Key Details of the Initiative Core Purpose: The update serves as a blueprint for local growth, development, and natural resource management, integrating findings from the county's new resilience strategies

Funding & Support: The project is part of a pilot program supported by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) through the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP).

Focus Areas: The revised policies evaluate current and future flood vulnerabilities, protect local farmland and wetlands, and guide sustainable public investments.

The County Manger asks the BOC to review and provide recommendations and/or feedback. The draft section of the plan has also been sent to the Ocracoke Planning Board for any recommendations.

RECOMMEND: REVIEW DRAFT PLAN SECTION. COMMISSIONERS SHOULD PROVIDE ANY FEEDBACK TO THE COUNTY MANGER BY SEPTEMBER 11, 2026.

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

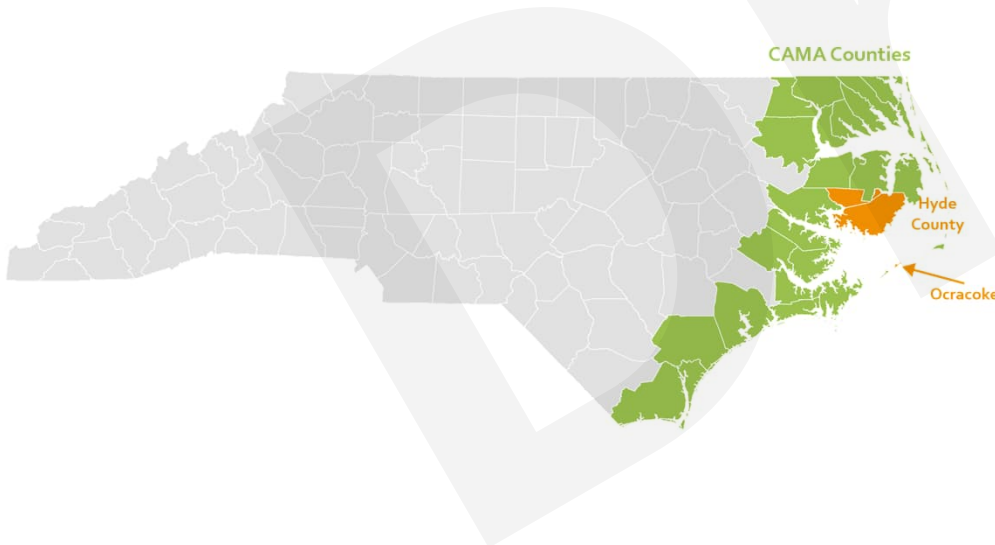
VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

About the Plan

Introduction

Hyde County's story stretches back long before its formal establishment—rooted first in the homelands of Indigenous peoples. The County took on its colonial form in 1705 as Wickham Precinct, later renamed for Governor Edward Hyde, and officially became Hyde County in 1739. Over the years, its boundaries shifted more than any other county in the state—adding places such as Lake Mattamuskeet and Ocracoke Island and trading territory with neighboring counties along the way.

Together, those changes formed the Hyde County we recognize now—its agricultural traditions, preserved wetlands, abundant opportunities to hunt, fish, and kayak, and its distinct coastal identity. As the County looks ahead, Hyde County Horizons 2040 builds on that rich past while focusing on how to support resilient growth, protect natural resources, and preserve the character that makes Hyde County feel like home.



Coastal Area Management Act

This plan is intended to fulfill the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) requirements for the preparation of a CAMA Land Use Plan. This plan is organized to adhere to the 15A NCAC 7B requirements, specifically rule .0702 which specifies the required content of CAMA land use plans. A matrix which specifies how and where in this Plan compliance with 15A NCAC 7B is provided at the end of this document.

The Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 (CAMA) requires all twenty of North Carolina's coastal counties to develop a land use plan that documents current conditions and outlines future actions for managing sensitive coastal areas. Guided by the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission (CRC), these plans must address specific environmental considerations and demonstrate how local decisions align with statewide coastal priorities. The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) carries out this oversight on behalf of the CRC, reviewing each plan, ensuring it meets state and federal standards, and enforcing the regulations that help protect North Carolina's coastal resources.

Hyde County's most recent CAMA Land Use Plan was adopted in 2008, and with no incorporated towns, it serves as the guiding plan for the entire County. The plan laid the groundwork for local land-use policy, County priorities, and the protection of valuable coastal resources. This updated plan builds on that foundation with a forward-looking, implementation-driven approach—focused on a clear vision and practical policies to guide Hyde County's growth and decision-making in both the near and long term.

A matrix identifying where each required CAMA land use plan element appears is provided at the end of this document. In addition to listing the page number for every requirements, the matrix is supported using an icon. Whenever this icon appears on a page, it signifies that a corresponding CAMA element is included there.



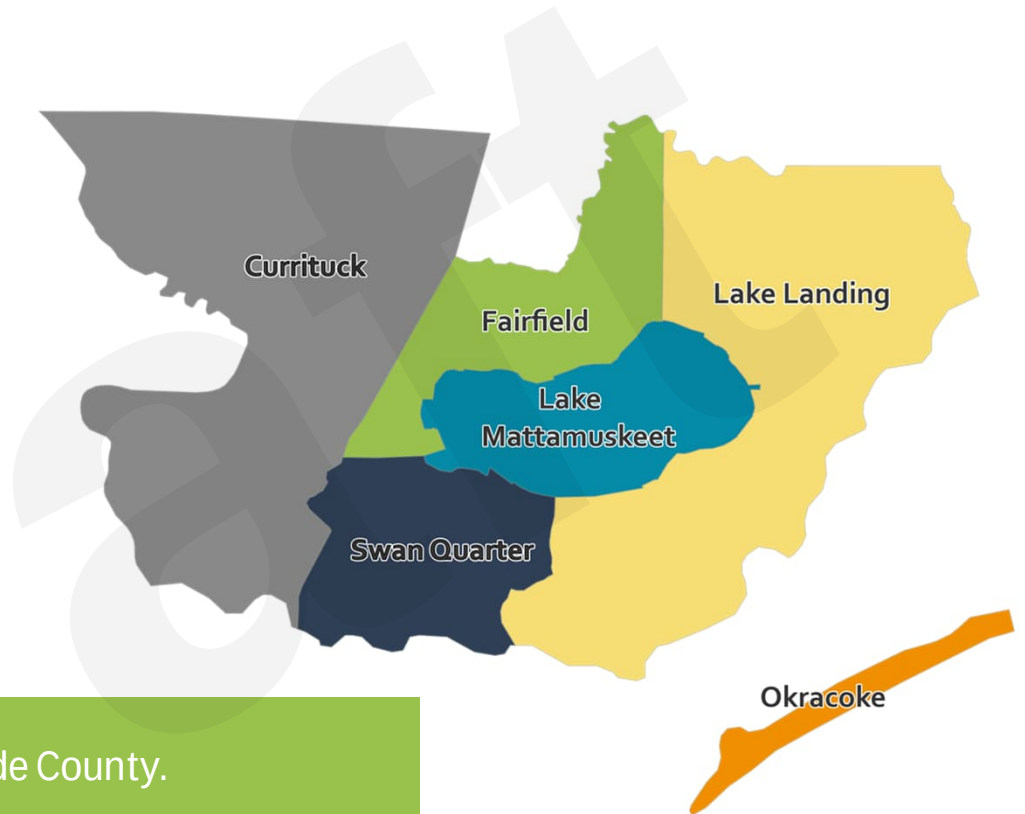
About Hyde County

Hyde County is a coastal community composed of two distinct settings: the rural Mainland and the island community of Ocracoke. The Mainland is predominantly agricultural and widely dispersed, while Ocracoke—part of the Outer Banks—is a compact, walkable village with a tourism-driven economy shaped by vacation rentals and seasonal visitation. Ocracoke also operates under its own development code, the Ocracoke Development Ordinance, reflecting its unique planning needs. Hyde County spans 612.3 square miles and remains one of the least populated counties in the state.

For the purposes of this CAMA Land Use Plan, data and analysis focus specifically on Mainland Hyde and Ocracoke, as these two areas represent the County's primary and most distinct population centers. To support place-based planning, the County is further divided into study areas—Engelhard, Fairfield, Ocracoke, Ponzer, Scranton, and Swan Quarter—which serve as places that capture clusters of economic activity relevant to land-use policy.

In addition to these planning study areas, Hyde County is also historically divided into six townships—Currituck, Fairfield, Lake Mattamuskeet, Lake Landing, Swan Quarter, and Ocracoke. While these townships have limited practical function today, they remain part of the County's traditional administrative structure.

Hyde County Townships



Quick Stats provides an overview of features in Hyde County.

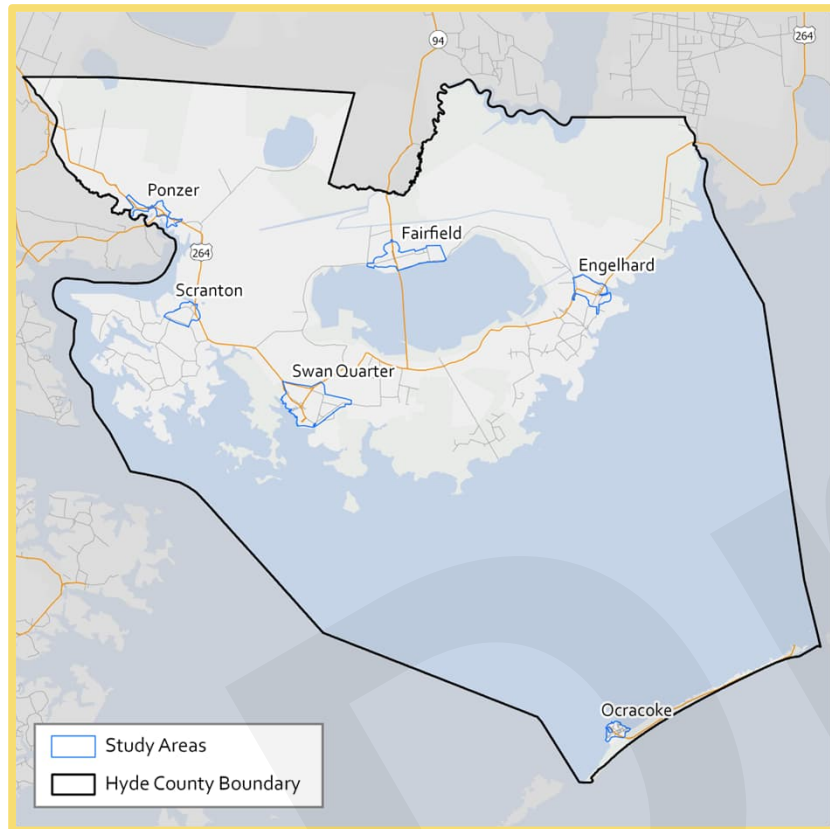
684.8 Square Miles (land area)

300.7 Miles of Roads

76% of Hyde County within the Floodplain 🌟 331,362 acres 🌟 (land area)

40% Park Land 🌟 173,819 acres 🌟 (land area)

Hyde County Study Area Map



Ocracoke Study Area Map



Quick Stats provides an overview of features in Ocracoke Island.

Because **84%** of Ocracoke Island is national seashore, the Ocracoke Study Area covers its developed land.

7.95 Square Miles (entire island) ✦ **1.08** Square Miles (study area)

21.6 Miles of Road (entire island) ✦ **9.1** Miles of Road (study area)

74% of entire island in Floodplain ✦ **92%** of study area

Plan Use and Structure

How the County will use this Plan

The Hyde County CAMA Land Use Plan provides long-term guidance for decisions affecting both Mainland Hyde and Ocracoke. It helps County Staff apply consistent policies in daily planning and permitting, supports the Board of Commissioners in making informed choices about growth, infrastructure, and coastal resilience, and provides advisory boards and committees with a clear framework for aligning recommendations and ordinances with County goals.

How Others will use this Plan

Businesses	To understand the Town's priorities for growth and investment, as well as where more concentrated development is anticipated.
Residents	To learn about the community's long-term vision for growth, development, and resiliency, and how supportive policies can improve quality of life.
Community Leaders	To help align efforts and advance shared community goals.
Regional Partners (ex: Albermarle Commission)	To coordinate cross-jurisdictional recommendations and policy strategies.
State Partners	The Division of Coastal Management uses the plan to inform CAMA permit decisions and federal consistency reviews.

Plan Structure

Hyde County Horizons 2040 is organized into six sections:

Introduction outlines the purpose of the Plan, its regulatory context under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), and how the document guides local decision-making.

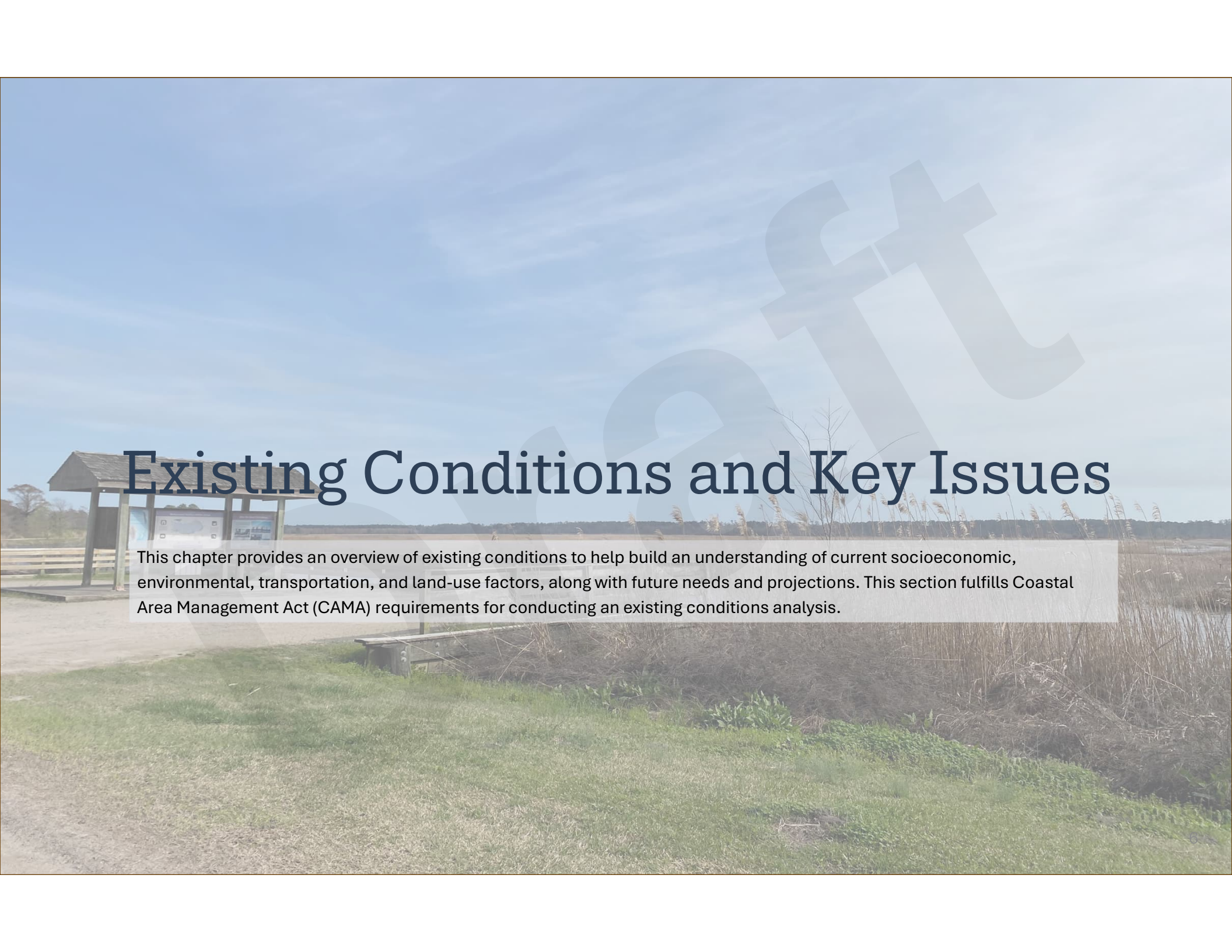
Community Profile provides an overview of existing conditions in both Mainland Hyde and Ocracoke. This section summarizes demographic trends, land use patterns, environmental resources, and coastal conditions that influence future planning.

Vision and Guiding Principles presents the County's vision for the future, along with the guiding principles that support resource protection, responsible growth, and coastal resilience. This section also summarizes key community engagement themes gathered throughout the planning process.

Land Use Strategy includes the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and associated land use categories. It describes the intended character of different areas of the County and outlines the concepts that support long-term land use decisions.

Policy Framework establishes policies that guide development, coastal management, hazard mitigation, and environmental protection. These policies provide the foundation for implementing the FLUM and meeting state CAMA requirements.

Implementation identifies the strategies, partners, and actions required to put the Plan into practice. This section outlines priority initiatives, resource needs, and opportunities for collaboration to ensure effective implementation over time.



Existing Conditions and Key Issues

This chapter provides an overview of existing conditions to help build an understanding of current socioeconomic, environmental, transportation, and land-use factors, along with future needs and projections. This section fulfills Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) requirements for conducting an existing conditions analysis.

Introduction & History

History of Mainland Hyde County

For centuries before European arrival in the late 1500s, Hyde County was the homeland of coastal indigenous groups, who, cultivated corn, beans, and squash and relied on fishing and herbal medicine. English colonization in the late 1600s and early 1700s brought profound disruption to indigenous communities across coastal Carolina, and following the Tuscarora War (1711–1713), the Machapunga-Mattamuskeet and Coree people were confined to a reservation along Mattamuskeet Lake. By the late 1700s, settlers placed the remaining children of the Machapunga-Mattamuskeet into bonded apprenticeship systems.

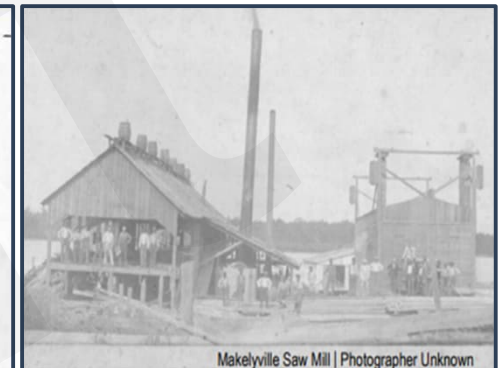
Through the 18th and early 19th centuries, Hyde County’s agricultural economy expanded through the forced labor of enslaved people, who cultivated staple coastal crops such as corn, potatoes, tobacco, and rice. After emancipation, farming remained the backbone of local life, sustained by the deep, fertile soils of the region known as the Coastal Carolina “Blacklands.”

In the late 19th century, Hyde County experienced a timber boom that spurred sawmills, logging operations, and a short-lived railroad, though prosperity declined by the 1930s as timber resources were depleted. This period also saw one of the most ambitious undertakings in the County’s history: the early-20th-century attempt to drain Lake Mattamuskeet through 83 miles of canals and a massive pumping plant (now Mattamuskeet Lodge), a project that ultimately failed and led to the lake and lodge’s transfer to the U.S. government in 1934.

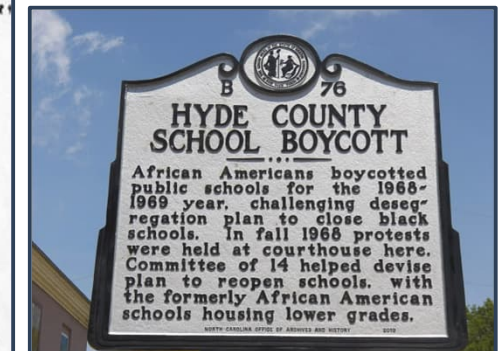
Today, agriculture remains the dominant economic foundation of Mainland Hyde County, shaping its landscape and rural identity. While long-term population decline and limited economic diversification persist, the County continues to support a strong agricultural sector, complemented by growing recreation and tourism around Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge and the ongoing restoration of Mattamuskeet Lodge.



Eastern Carolina Indigenous Tribes and Towns. Source: NCGenWeb



Makelyville Saw Mill. Source: Coastal Review



Hyde County School Boycott Marker. Source: Coastal Review

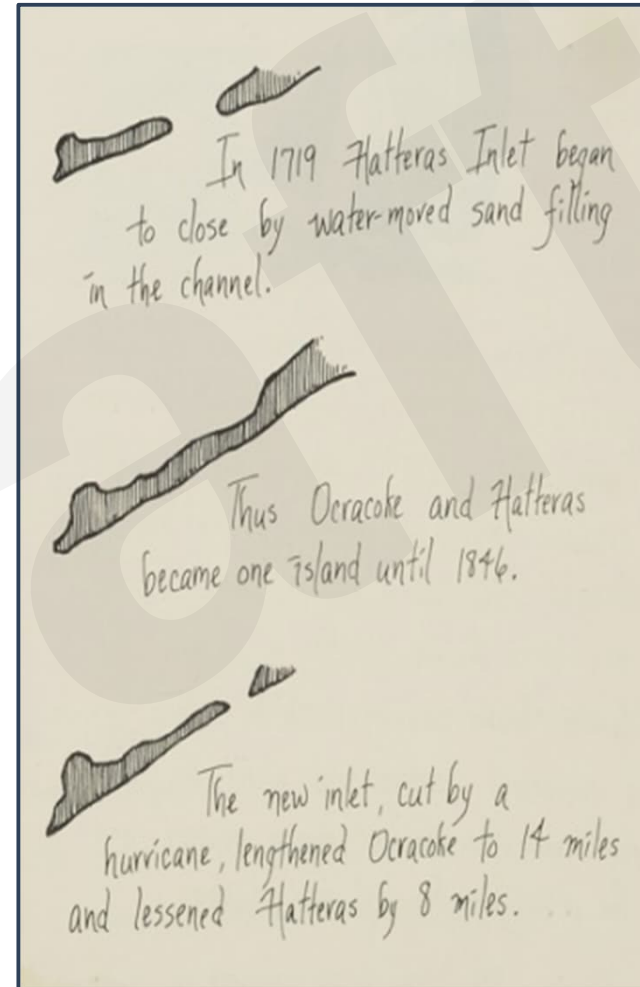
History of Ocracoke

Ocracoke Island's history is shaped by its maritime environment, longstanding isolation, and resilient community identity. The island's earliest inhabitants were members of Woccon tribe, who used the land for seasonal hunting and fishing. European mapping began in 1585, and by the early 1700s the colonial government designated Ocracoke as Pilot Town, settling maritime pilots to navigate the inlet's shallow, shifting waters—among them both European settlers and enslaved pilots brought from the mainland. Additionally, the island is closely tied to the story of Blackbeard, who used its hidden channels until his death on the island in 1718.

Through the 18th and 19th centuries, Ocracoke grew into a small coastal village built around fishing, piloting, and Atlantic maritime trade. Despite its strategic role during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the island remained isolated well into the 20th century: electricity did not arrive until 1938, reliable telephone service until 1966, and access was primarily by mailboat before the advent of state-run ferries in 1957.

During World War II, the waters off Ocracoke became part of the Battle of the Atlantic, as German U-boats patrolled dangerously close to the Outer Banks and targeted Allied vessels offshore. In May 1942, the British naval trawler HMT Bedfordshire was torpedoed by U-558, and when four sailors' bodies later washed ashore, island residents buried them in what is now the Ocracoke British Cemetery.

Ocracoke's modern transformation accelerated with the establishment of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, expansion of ferry service, and construction of NC Highway 12, all of which supported the development of a year-round tourism economy and sustained commercial fishing community. In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian brought the most severe flooding in Ocracoke's modern history, with a 4-to-7-foot storm surge that inundated homes, businesses, and Ocracoke School, forcing students and staff to relocate and attend classes across multiple temporary campuses. Following several years of recovery and reconstruction, Ocracoke has since reopened its only school, marking an important milestone.



Karen Duckett's Historic Ocracoke. Source: Digital NC



The Ocracoke School, 1973.
Source: Ocracoke Observer



Source: Ocracoke Guide & Sue Reed



Source: Ocracoke Guide

Historic, Cultural & Scenic Resources

Historic Resources

Although Hyde County was among the earliest areas of North Carolina explored by European colonists, it has relatively few sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with just seven historic structures and three historic districts recognized Countywide. Most of these structures are residences reflecting Greek Revival architectural influences, alongside notable listings such as the Ocracoke Lighthouse, the Hyde County Courthouse, and the Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station. Archaeological work has also revealed a deeper historical record: in 1985–1987, East Carolina University researchers documented postholes and artifacts from a mid 1600s Native American farmstead occupied by the Machepungo-Mattamsukeet people, underscoring that Hyde County’s heritage extends far beyond its colonial era.

In addition to its officially listed National Register sites, Hyde County residents also identified two historic cemeteries, Fullford Cemetery and Ada & Addison Brown Cemetery as important cultural landmarks, and these community-recognized sites are included on the map as well.

Cultural Resources

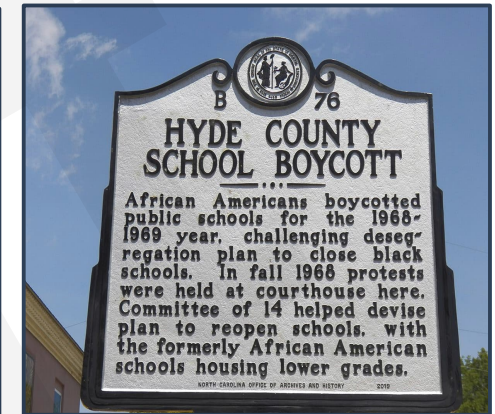
Hyde County's cultural resources reflect its strong ties to the water and long-standing traditions of commercial fishing and shellfish harvesting, with places such as Far Creek serving as an active working waterfront and portions of the NC Oyster Trail highlighting the region's oyster farming and seafood heritage. Together, these resources illustrate the importance of maritime livelihoods to the county's identity, those this list is not exhaustive.

Scenic Resources

Hyde County's scenic resources reflect its expansive coastal landscapes and natural character, including locations such as Mattamuskeet Lodge, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, the Outer Banks Scenic Byway, and Cape Hatteras National Seashore. This list is not exhaustive as Hyde County is home to many additional wildlife refuges, waterways, and scenic areas that contribute to the county's overall environmental and visual appeal.



The Inkwell House, Lake Landing, Source: NC State Archives



Historical Marker at Hyde County Courthouse .
Source: Coastal Review.



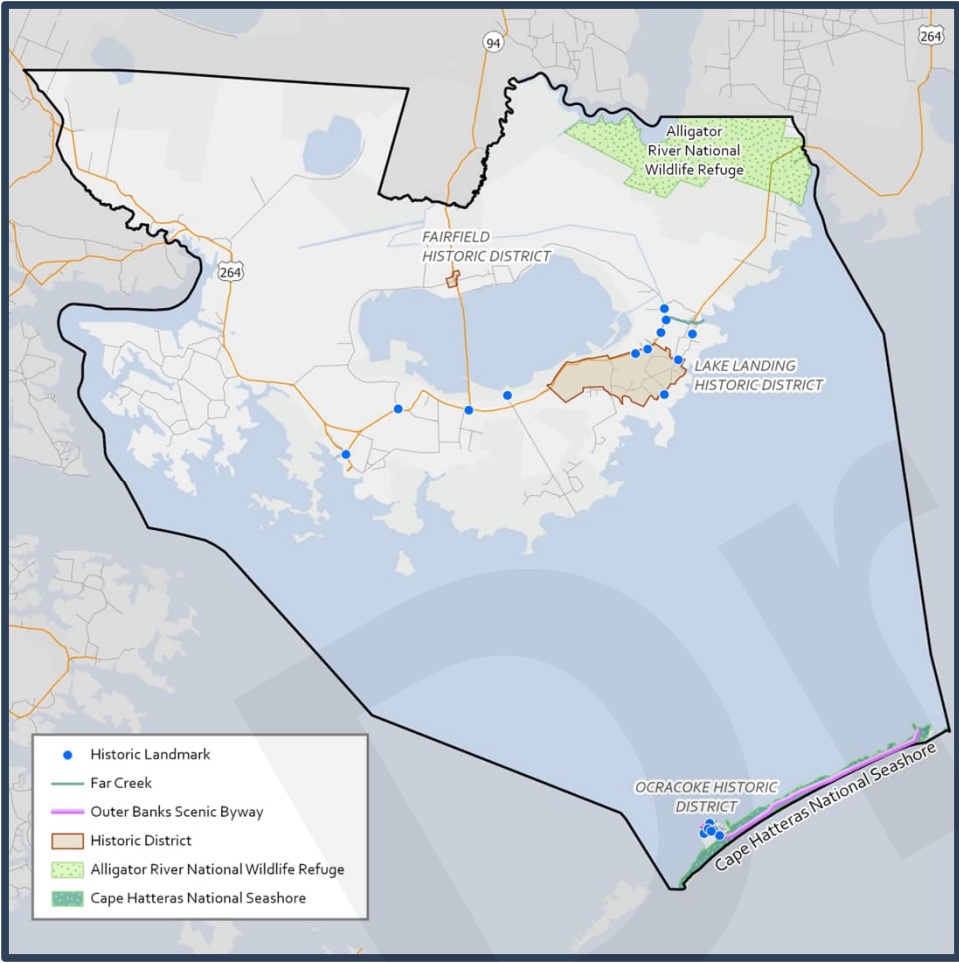
British Cemetery in Ocracoke. Source: NPS



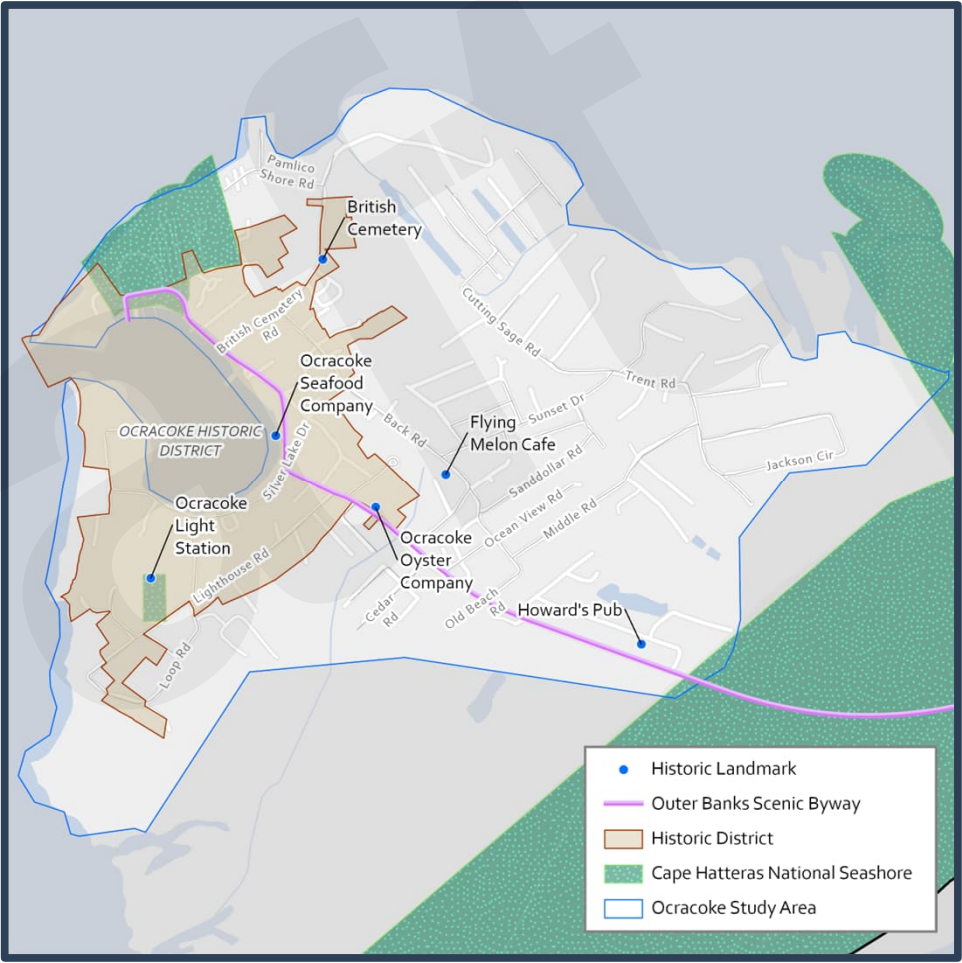
Good Time Charlies' Fisheries in Englehard offers a hands-on experience of oyster farming. Source: NC Oyster Trail

The following pages describe historic, cultural and scenic resources and map their locations within Hyde County. Please note that the Ponzer and Scranton study areas are excluded because they do not have identified historic, cultural and scenic resources.

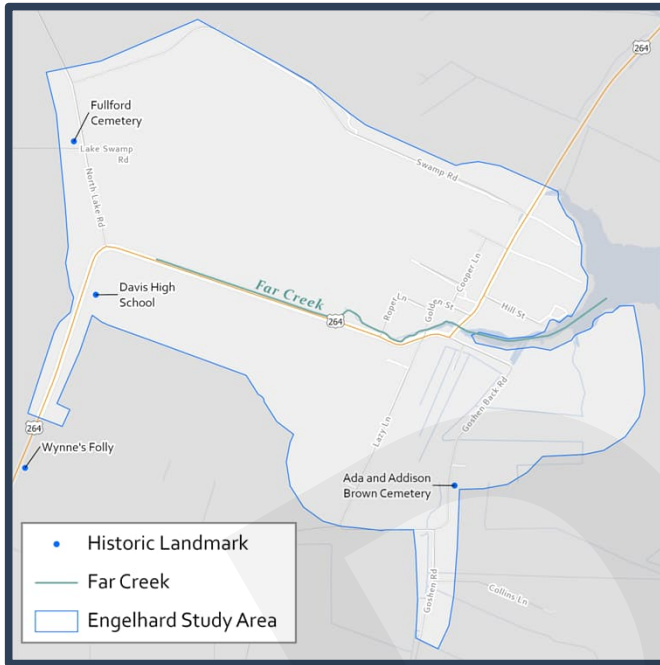
Hyde County Historic, Cultural, & Scenic Resources



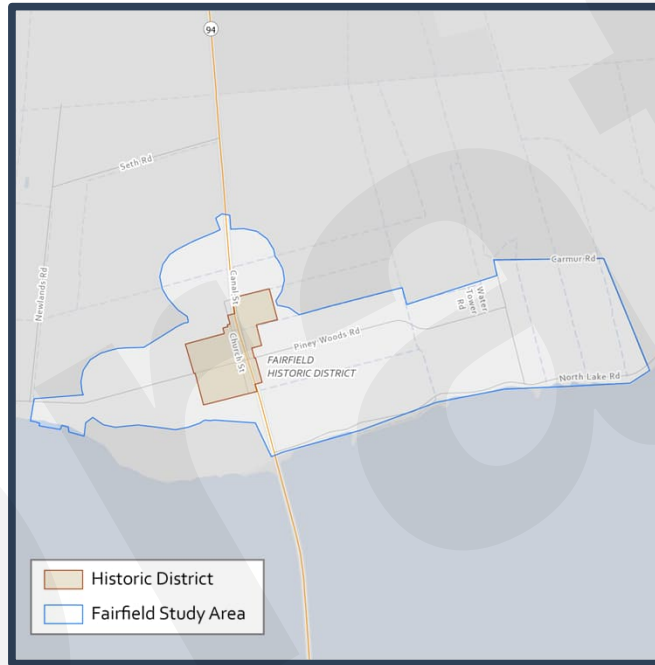
Ocracoke Historic, Cultural, & Scenic Resources



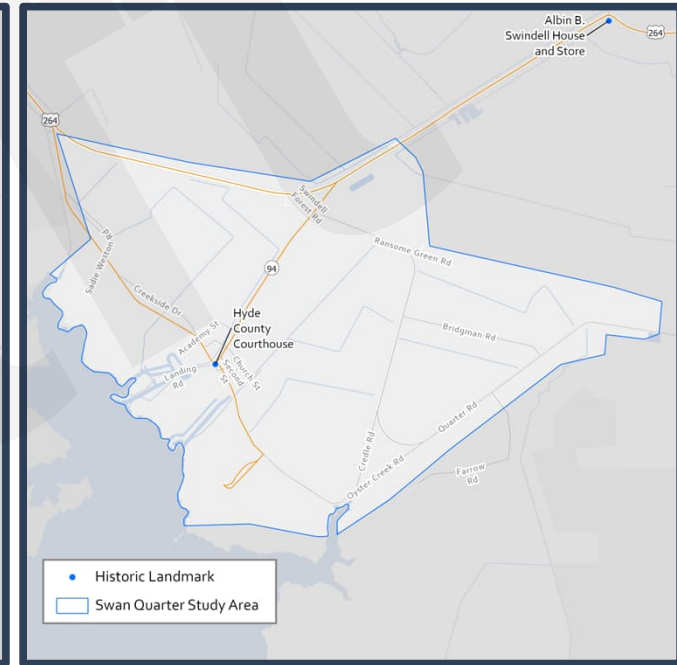
Englehard Historic, Cultural, & Scenic Resources



Fairfield Historic, Cultural, & Scenic Resources



Swan Quarter Historic, Cultural, & Scenic Resources



Historic, Cultural & Scenic Resources List



Historic, Cultural, or Scenic Resource	Category of Property	Description
George Credle House	Historic – Listed	1852 Greek Revival plantation house featuring a symmetrical façade and central hall plan.
Davis School	Historic – Listed	Following the impending closure of this historic black school, the students organized a school boycott that lasted the entire school year (1968-1969) and led to two marches from Swan Quarter to the state capital of Raleigh. 600 protestors participated and ultimately the schools remained open until the 1990s.
Fairfield Historic District	Historic – Listed	A rural district encompassing a collection of buildings that illustrate the development of Fairfield as a small agricultural community.
Hyde County Courthouse	Historic – Listed	This 1854, Greek Revival has continuously served as the seat of county government.
Inkwell	Historic – Listed	William Sparrow built this octagon house in 1857 as he believed it offered unique protection from storms.
Lake Landing Historic District	Historic – Listed	Centered around a former port village, this district contains warehouses, stores, and residences.
Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station	Historic – Listed	Completed in 1915, this massive structure housed steam-powered pumps intended to drain Lake Mattamuskeet for farming.
Ocracoke Historic District	Historic – Listed	A dense collection of 19th- and early 20th-century wood-frame cottages, fish houses, and outbuildings.
Ocracoke Light Station	Historic – Listed	Completed in 1823, this whitewashed brick lighthouse stands approximately 75 feet tall.
Albin B. Swindwell House	Historic – Listed	A circa 1910 structure combining a vernacular two-story residence with an attached general store,
Wynne's Folly	Historic – Listed	Historic plantation home near Englehard with two-story, five bay by five bay, vernacular Greek Revival style frame dwelling.
Fullford and Ada & Addison Brown Cemetery	Historic	Community-identified historic cemeteries in Englehard. Ada & Addison Brown is a historically black cemetery.
British Cemetery	Historic	Burial site where four British sailors from the HMT Bedfordshire, sunk by a German U-boat in 1942, were laid to rest.
Mattamuskeet Lodge	Scenic Resource	Originally built in 1915 as a hunting lodge for wealthy sportsmen visiting Lake Mattamuskeet and is currently being restored.
Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge	Scenic Resource	The refuge was established in 1984 to protect rare pocosin wetlands and their wildlife – including black bears, river otters, and wintering waterfowl. It contains the only population of wild red wolves in the world with 15-20 wolves remaining.
Far Creek	Cultural	Far Creek is home to the mainland's sea food packers, who harvest local shrimp and Englehard's signature, soft-shell crabs.
NC Oyster Trail	Cultural	The NC Oyster Trail features 5 spots in Hyde County on the trail, including the Ocracoke Seafood Company, Flying Melon Café, Howard's Pub, the Ocracoke Oyster Company, and Good Time Charlie's Fisheries.
Outer Banks Scenic Byway	Scenic Resource	The Outer Banks National Scenic Byway follows the North Carolina coastline and stretches over 138 driving mile and 25 ferry-riding miles along barrier islands, Pamlico Sound and two inlets and through coastal villages, including Ocracoke.
Cape Hatteras National Seashore	Scenic Resource	The Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the nation's first national seashore, was authorized in 1937 to preserve a significant segment of barrier islands. The National Seashore takes up 84% of Ocracoke and draws thousands of visitors each year.



Previous Plan Review

Hyde County's 2008 CAMA land use plan was foundational to the development of this update. Many key details and findings of the 2008 plan are still relevant today and incorporated into the 2026 version. In addition, recently adopted plans and policies—developed since 2008—played a key role in refining the updated land use strategy. Their contributions and relevant codes and ordinances are detailed below.

Plan	About the Plan
Northeastern Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025)	This plan serves as an important source of information on natural hazards and climate change risks, vulnerabilities, and mitigation opportunities for Hyde County.
Mattamuskeet Lodge: Restoration Initiative (2024)	The report explains Hyde County's plan to complete the final restoration phase of Mattamuskeet Lodge and reopen it as a community event, education, and tourism center.
Hyde County Wellhead Protection Plan Update (2022)	The Hyde County Wellhead Protection Plan Update identifies, maps, and manages potential contamination sources near public drinking water wells as well as establishes management strategies for preventing groundwater pollution.
N.C. 12 Task Force Report (2022)	Ocracoke Island faces ongoing ferry channel, terminal, and N.C. 12 shoreline erosion challenges, the report recommends a short-term strategy of maintaining existing infrastructure and a long-term plan to relocate the South Dock closer to Ocracoke village and explore passenger ferry options.
Ocracoke Stormwater Master Plan (2025)	The master plan proposes targeted infrastructure projects to improve how water moves through the village.
Resilient Coastal Communities Program Ocracoke Resilience Strategy (2022)	This strategy identifies eight priority projects—such as a drainage study, undergrounding electrical lines, and purchasing trailer-mounted pumps—to help improve the island's resilience
N.C. 12 Ocracoke Island Hot Spot Report (2020)	The report identifies relocating the Hatteras–Ocracoke ferry's South Dock closer to Ocracoke Village to avoid the extremely high cost of constructing a long causeway to the current eroding terminal, while also noting that maintaining the existing dock and roadway in the short term remains expensive due to constant erosion, flooding, and the repeated need to hold the infrastructure in place.
Lake Mattamuskeet Watershed Restoration Plan (2018)	The plan identifies three goals and recommends a water-management authority, enhanced modeling, and engineered drainage to improve long-term resilience for Lake Mattamuskeet and surrounding communities.
Hyde County Hurricane Matthew Resilient Redevelopment Plan (2017)	This plan details Hurricane Matthew's impacts and identifies needed infrastructure and property protection improvements for resilient redevelopment.
Hyde County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2014)	Hyde County's Parks & Recreation Master Plan lays out a clear, practical roadmap for future park and facility improvements in both the Mainland and Ocracoke by assessing current assets and recommending targeted upgrades, expansions, and programs to better meet community needs.
Albermarle Regional Bicycle Plan (2013)	This plan identifies opportunities in Hyde County to improve bicycle access.
Hyde County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2012)	This long-range multimodal transportation plan covers Hyde County transportation needs through 2035.
Hyde County Code of Ordinances	The County Code of Ordinance is the official compilation of County laws that have been officially adopted by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners.
Hyde County Subdivision Regulations	Hyde County Subdivision Regulations are located in Chapter 36 of the County Code of Ordinances and addresses the division of land, compliance with the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), and the associated process and procedures for subdivision review.
Ocracoke Development Ordinance	The Ocracoke Development Ordinance is located in Article VII, Chapter 36 of the Hyde County Code of Ordinances. Adopted by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners, this ordinance outlines development standards such as minimum lot sizes, minimum setbacks, maximum building height, among others.

Managed Areas

Almost half (47%) of Hyde County is permanently conserved as managed or protected land—an unusually high share compared to most North Carolina counties—which creates significant ecotourism potential. However, because so much of this land is owned by state and federal agencies and generates no property-tax revenue, the County faces significant challenges in growing its tax base and maintaining local control.

Mainland Hyde County

Mainland Hyde County is home to several state and federal wildlife refuges including Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and more. These refuges attract visitors from across the region who come to hunt waterfowl and deer, fish in renowned freshwater and brackish habitats, kayak through extensive wetlands, and experience some of the most remote wildlife viewing and birding opportunities on the East Coast.

A Brief History of Mattamuskeet Lodge

1825–1930s – Lake Mattamuskeet is drained for farming, a pump station and the town of New Holland are built, then the experiment collapses during the Great Depression.

1933–1937 – The federal government restores the lake; materials from the pump station and town are reused to build Mattamuskeet Lodge.

1937–1974 – The Lodge operates as a nationally known waterfowl hunting lodge and community gathering place.

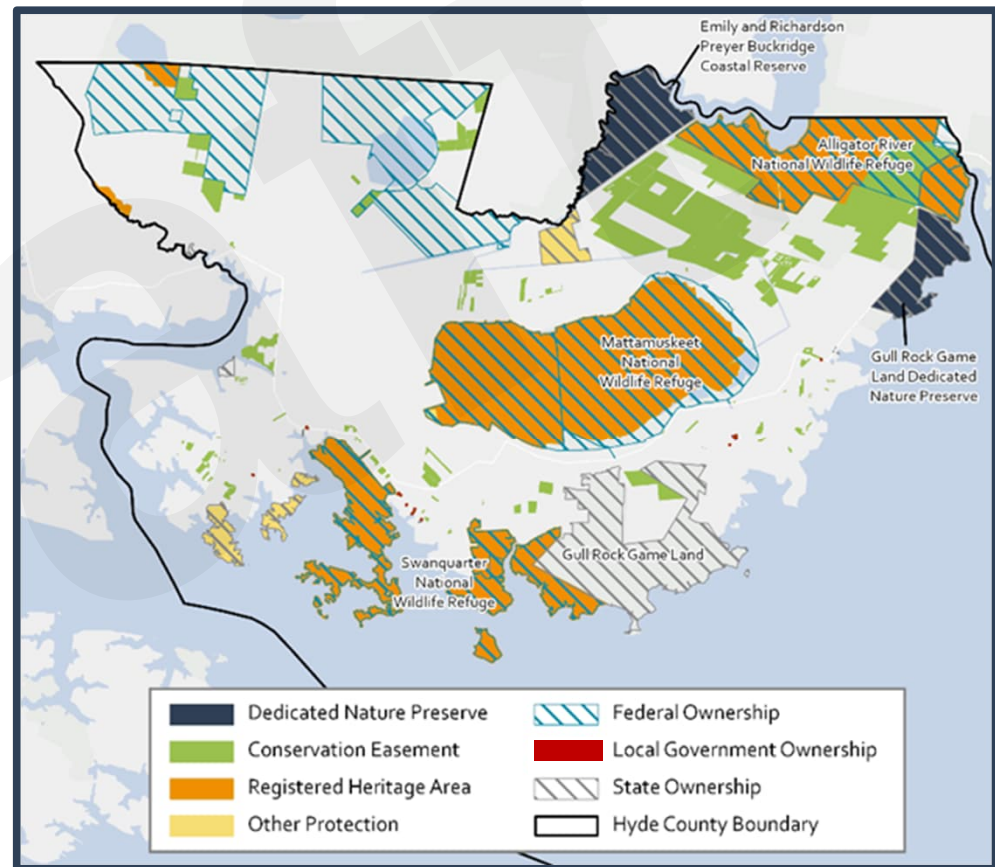
1974–2010 – Hunting ends, the Lodge closes and reopens intermittently, gains historic status, but restoration efforts stall due to structural issues and funding shortfalls.

2022–Present – Hyde County, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Mattamuskeet Lodge Society launch a major, state-funded restoration to return the Lodge to public use.



Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge, 2024.
Source: Mattamuskeet Lodge Society, Inc.

Mainland Hyde County Managed Lands



Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge accounts for 11.5% of the mainland.

Ocracoke

The vast majority of Ocracoke Island lies within the protected boundaries of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, with approximately 4,072 acres—about 84% of the entire island—owned and managed by the federal government as preserved shoreline. Because so little of Ocracoke is available for residential or commercial use, the community itself occupies only a small portion of the island’s footprint.

Ocracoke Lighthouse

The Ocracoke Lighthouse, first lit in 1823, is the oldest operating lighthouse in North Carolina and the second oldest still in use in the United States. As of 2026, restoration is underway on historic support buildings including the Double Keepers’ Quarters and other structures.



Source: Visit Ocracoke

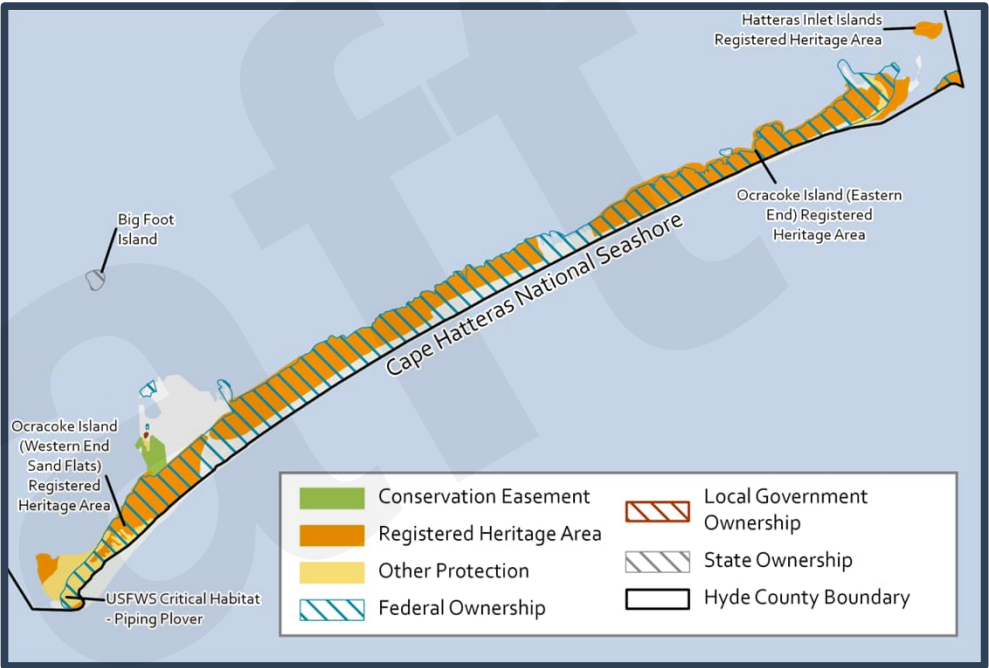
The Future of the Ocracoke Herd



Source: Visit Ocracoke

“Banker” horses were left in Ocracoke by shipwrecked explorers in the 16th or 17th century. The ponies roamed the island until the construction of Highway 12 in 1959 when they were penned to prevent traffic issues. Since the early 1960s, NPS has cared for this small herd (9-20 ponies) and in 2024 began working on a horse management plan to guide long-term care of the ponies given sea-level rise and habitat change.

Ocracoke Managed Lands



The Ocracoke Banker ponies occupy 188 acres (about 3%) of the island!

Land Use



Framework

Hyde County's existing land use shows how different parts of the County function today. Looking at these patterns helps the County see what is working, what is missing, and what should guide future land use decisions and policies.

Methodology

Existing land use in Hyde County was mapped using parcel data as the base layer, combined with building footprint, land cover, conservation, and farmland datasets. Parcels smaller than 20 acres were classified by building occupancy type, while parcels 20 acres or larger were classified using National Land Cover Database categories to identify agricultural and natural open space.

Farmland areas identified through Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) partner efforts were treated as authoritative and replaced any conflicting land use classifications. National Heritage Program managed areas were classified separately as Conservation lands. Any remaining unclassified areas were labeled Natural Open Space.

Final land use polygons were clipped to the Hyde County census boundary to ensure consistent area calculations, and study areas were manually reviewed and adjusted as needed.

Land Use Descriptions

The Existing Land Use map on the following pages shows land use in Hyde County today based on the categories below. On Mainland Hyde County, the predominant land use is agriculture or conservation, while Cape Hatteras National Seashore makes up the vast majority of Ocracoke with residential and commercial uses making up most of its developed land.

Agriculture

Large tracts of land that are utilized for farming and/or farm-related activities.

Commercial

Land use for retail or wholesale uses, personal services, hotels, restaurants, offices, and other uses.

Conservation

Dedicated nature preserves, wildlife refuges, conservation easements, game lands, and/or state/federally managed land.

Industrial

Land used for warehousing, transportation, processing, and manufacturing.

Institutional

Parcels containing government, schools, churches.

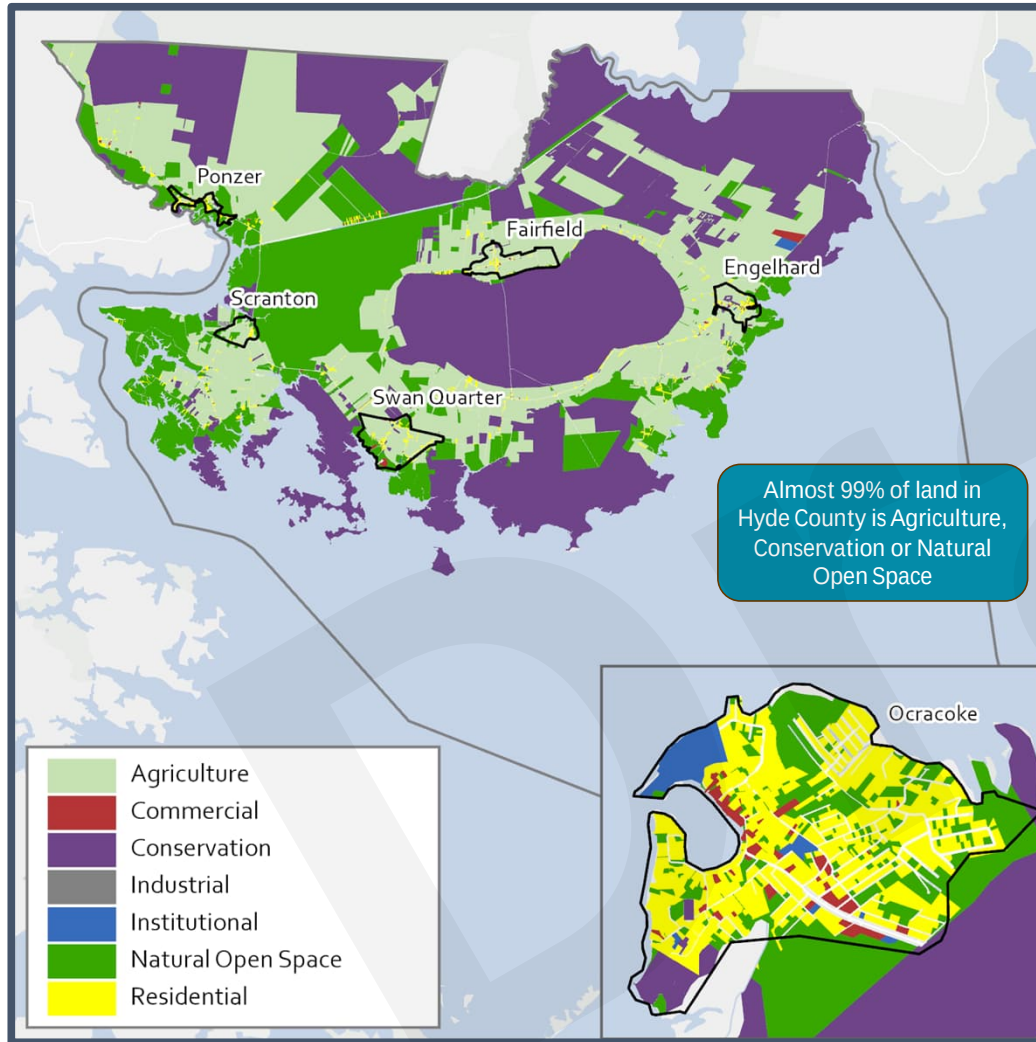
Natural Open Space

Undeveloped land owned by private landholders and not subject to conservation or preservation.

Residential

Land occupied by housing including single-family homes, apartments, condos, and townhomes. These units may be used year-round or seasonally.

Hyde County Existing Land Use



By the Numbers

31.1% of Hyde County is Agriculture (134,475 acres)

0.2% of Hyde County is Commercial (835 acres)

47.4% of Hyde County is Conservation (204,895 acres)

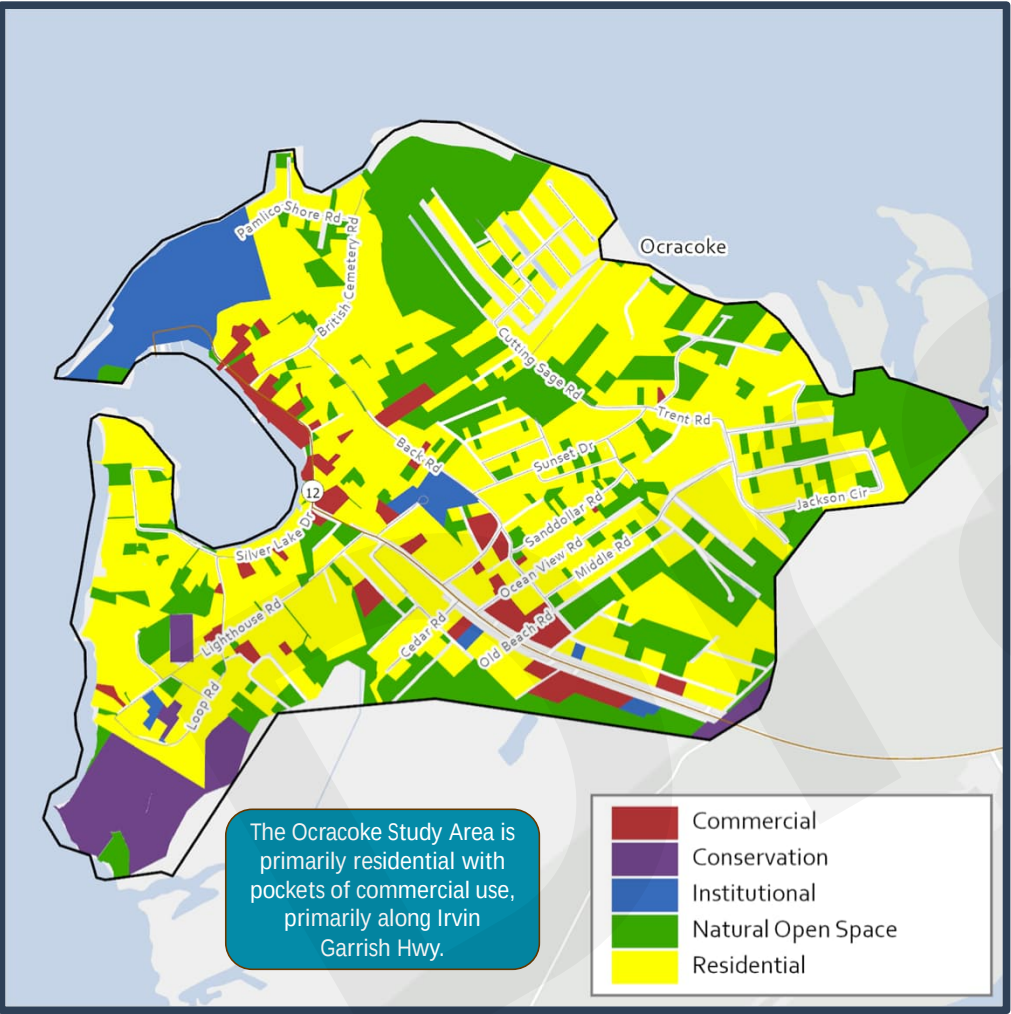
0.01% of Hyde County is Industrial (39 acres)

0.1% of Hyde County is Institutional (406 acres)

20.2% of Hyde County is Natural Open Space (87,159 acres)

1.0% of Hyde County is Residential (4,374 acres)

Ocracoke Existing Land Use

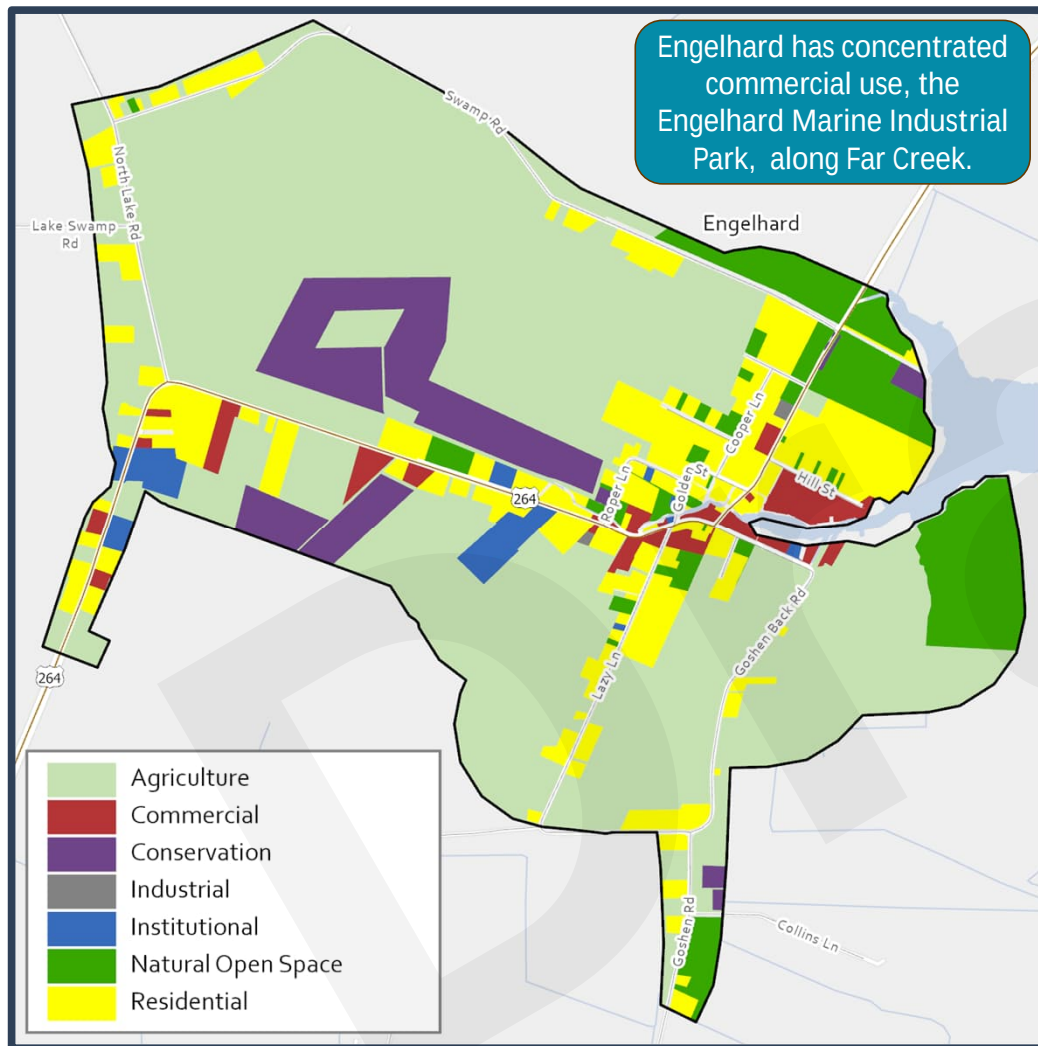


By the Numbers*

- 0% is Agriculture (0 acres)
- 5.5% is Commercial (32 acres)
- 9.5% is Conservation (55 acres)
- 0% is Industrial (0 acres)
- 1.1% is Institutional (7 acres)
- 29.3% is Natural Open Space (171 acres)
- 54.7% is Residential (319 acres)

*Because Cape Hatteras National Seashore makes up 84% of Ocracoke Island, the numbers above reflect the Ocracoke study area, where all residential and commercial activities take place on the island.

Engelhard Existing Land Use



By the Numbers

64.7% is Agriculture
(1,159 acres)

2.6% is Commercial (47 acres)

7.5% is Conservation (134 acres)

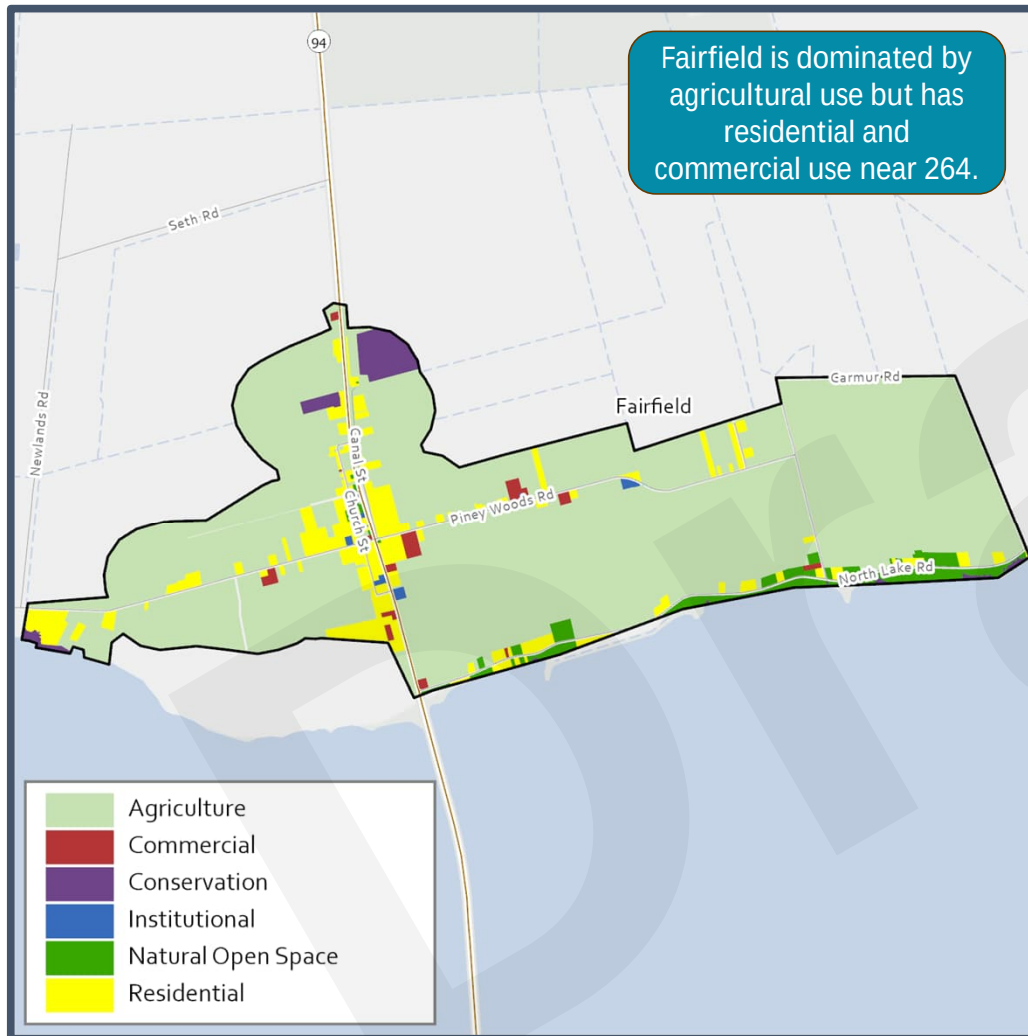
0.2% is Industrial (3 acres)

1.5% is Institutional (26 acres)

8.9% is Natural Open Space (160 acres)

14.6% is Residential (261 acres)

Fairfield Existing Land Use



By the Numbers

86.3% is Agriculture
(2,472 acres)

1.0% is Commercial (28 acres)

1.9% is Conservation (55 acres)

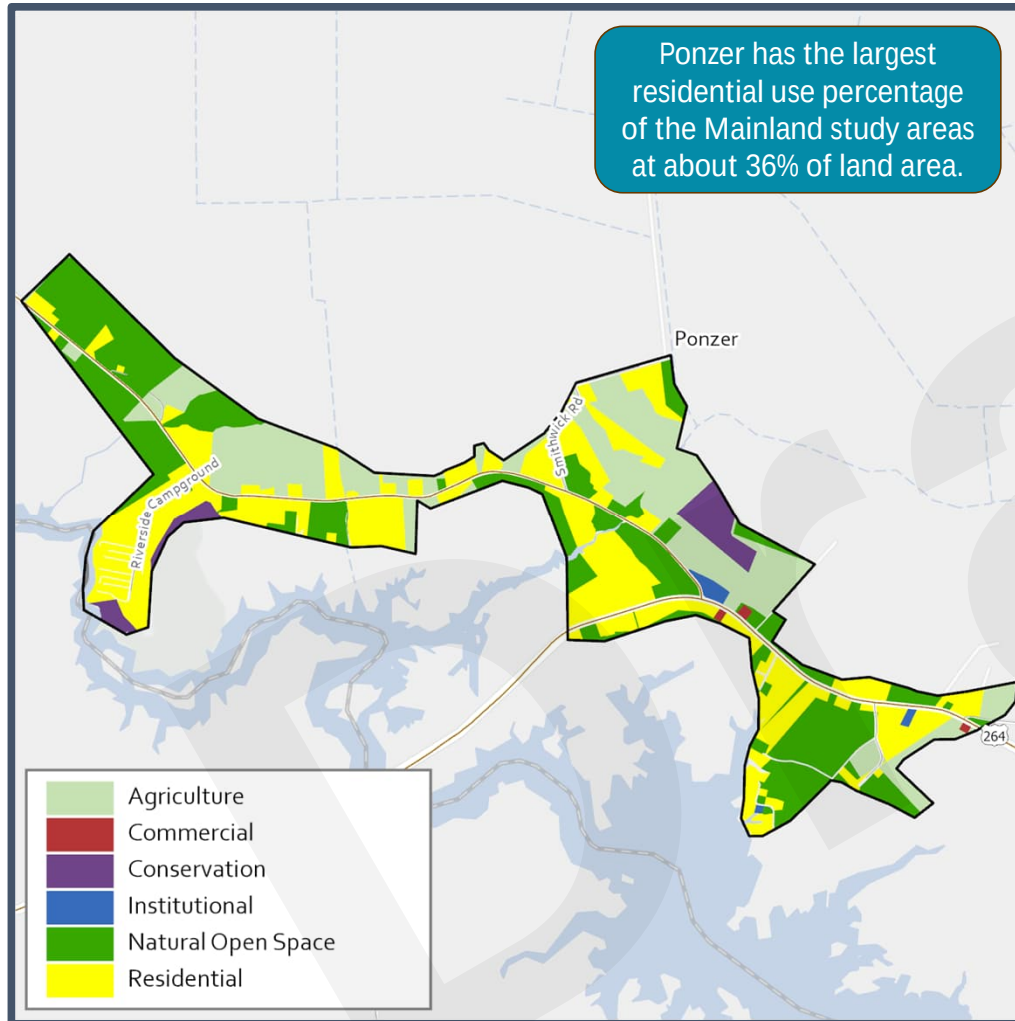
0% is Industrial (0 acres)

0.1% is Institutional (3 acres)

3.0% is Natural Open Space (87 acres)

7.6% is Residential (218 acres)

Ponzer Existing Land Use



By the Numbers

27.3% is Agriculture (258 acres)

0.2% is Commercial (2 acres)

3.7% is Conservation (35 acres)

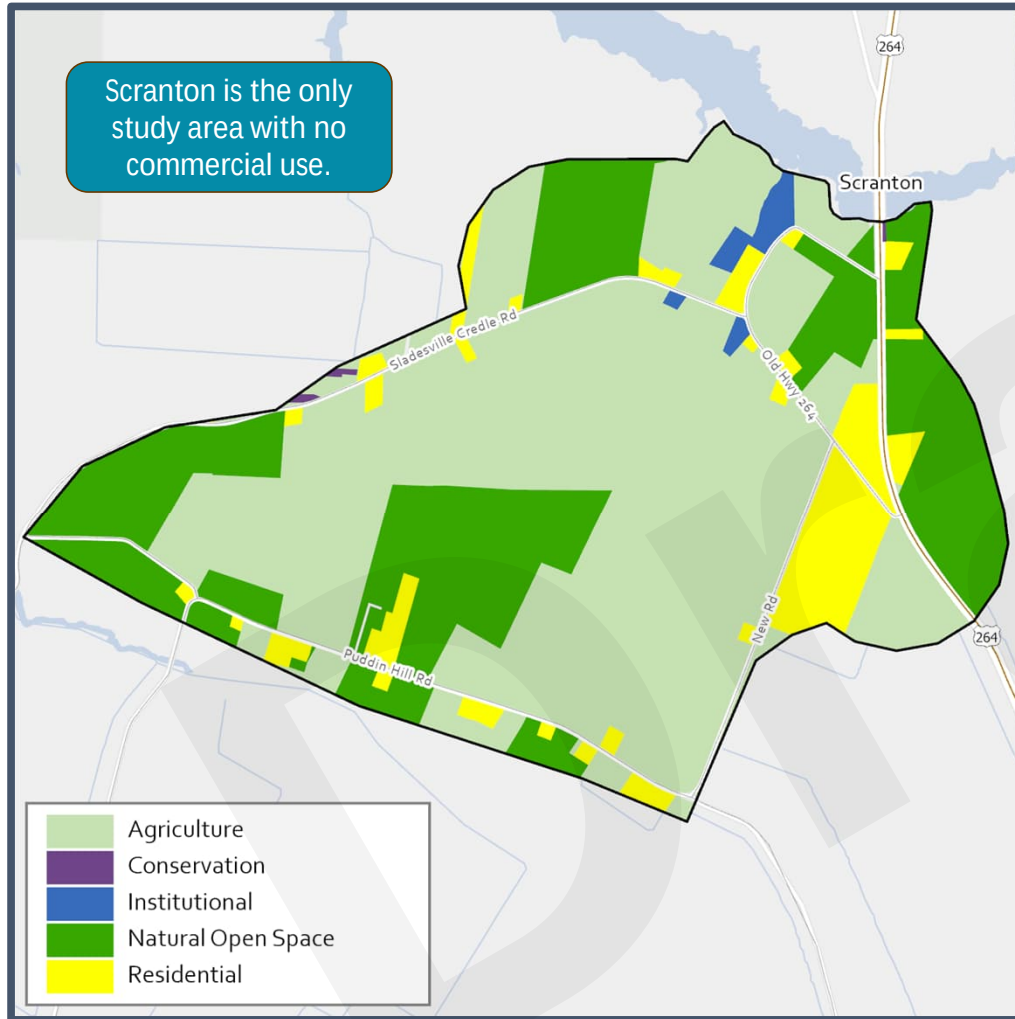
0% is Industrial (0 acres)

0.6% is Institutional (6 acres)

32.2% is Natural Open Space (303 acres)

35.9% is Residential (339 acres)

Scranton Existing Land Use



By the Numbers

62.5% is Agriculture
(813 acres)

0.0% is Commercial (0 acres)

0.1% is Conservation (2 acres)

0% is Industrial (0 acres)

1.0% is Institutional (13 acres)

28.0% is Natural Open Space (364 acres)

8.3% is Residential (108 acres)

Swan Quarter Existing Land Use



Swan Quarter's land use, like all the Mainland study areas, is primarily agricultural or natural open space with some residential and commercial use along 264.

By the Numbers

59.9% is Agriculture (2,646 acres)

3.3% is Commercial (145 acres)

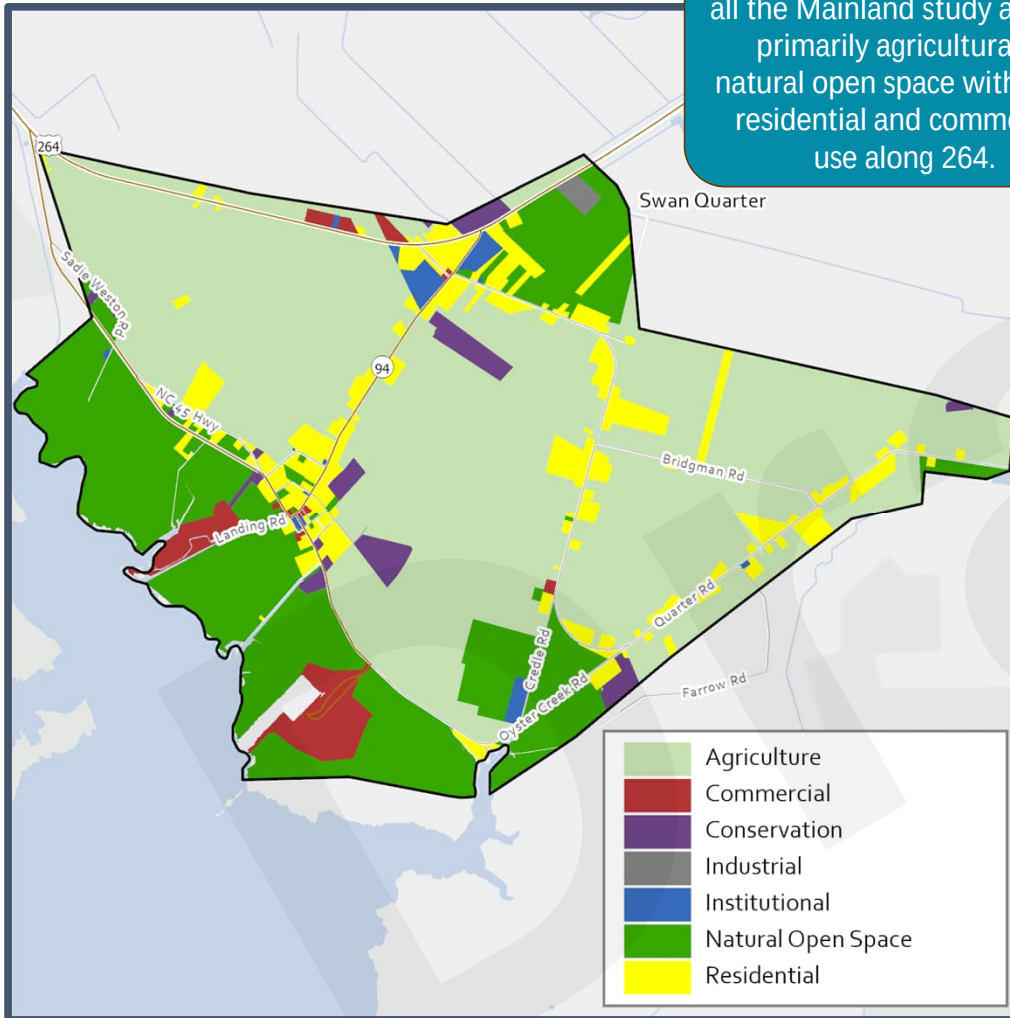
2.2% is Conservation (96 acres)

0.3% is Industrial (11 acres)

0.1% is Institutional (5 acres)

25.3% is Natural Open Space (1,116 acres)

9.0% is Residential (396 acres)



Transportation



Introduction

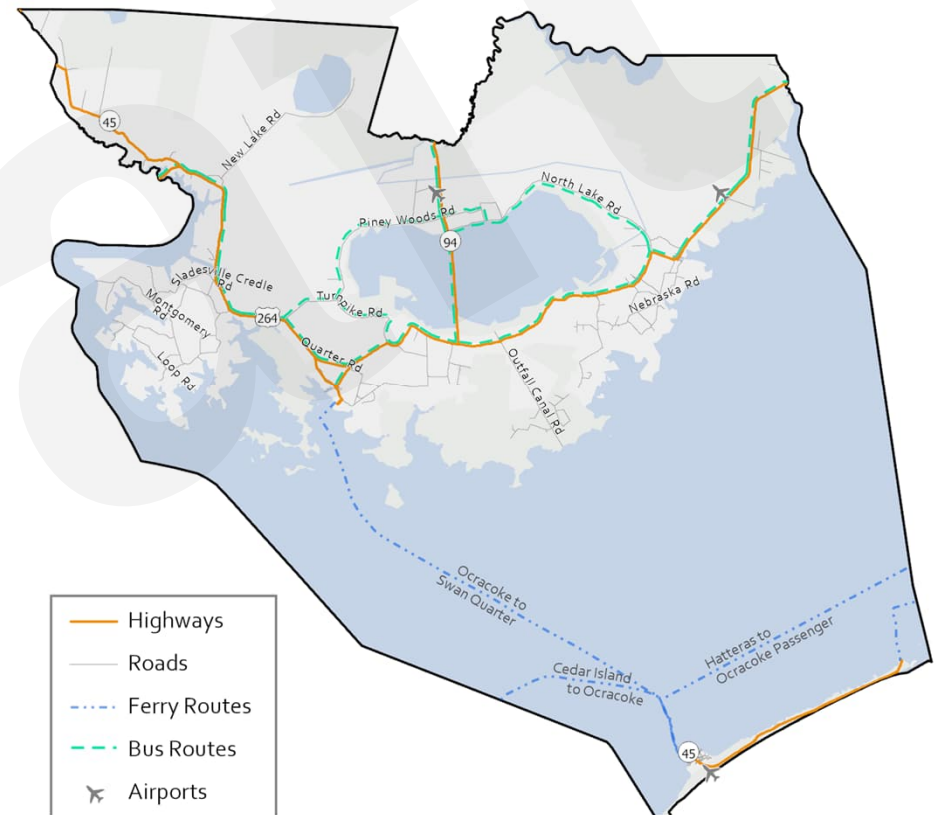
Hyde County's transportation network is anchored by its primary state-maintained highways—US 264, NC 94, NC 45, and NC 12—and its ferry routes, which connect the mainland to Ocracoke Island. Nearly all major and minor collector roads in the County fall under North Carolina State Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Maintenance, which is updated quarterly in the state's roadway inventory. These routes provide critical east-west and north-south mobility, with US 264 serving communities including Belhaven and Swan Quarter and NC 94 linking Swan Quarter to Lake Mattamuskeet and areas north toward Edenton and Columbia.

Hyde County's most recent Comprehensive Transportation Plan was published in 2012 and found that there are no roadway deficiencies for the projected 2035 year. Because of this, the CTP does not recommend any highway improvements but does recommend limited bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

2012 CTP Inventory of Hyde County Highways

Highway	Miles	Speed Limit	Existing Capacity vehicles per day (2012)	Proposed Capacity vehicles per day (2035)
US264	52.0	45	12,700	12,700
NC12	13.8	35 (Hatteras Ferry to Old Beach Rd); 55 (Old Beach Rd to Swan Quarter Ferry)	12,700	12,700
		55; 45 for NC 45 to Quarter Road & Quarter Rd to US 264		
NC94	12.7	55	12,700; 13,600 for NC 45 to Quarter Road & Quarter Rd to US 264	12,700; 13,600 for NC 45 to Quarter Road & Quarter Rd to US 264
NC45	13.7	55	12,000	12,000

Map of Existing Hyde County Transportation



Multimodal Transportation

Mainland Hyde County

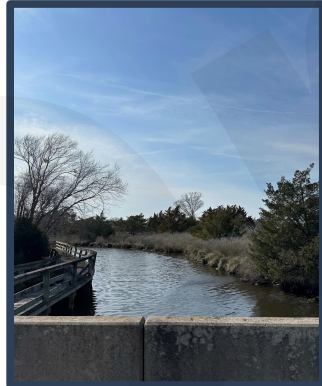
Multimodal transportation options in Mainland Hyde County are limited but essential. Although Hyde County’s 2012 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) identifies multiple opportunities to improve walking and biking infrastructure, only one recommendation has been implemented in the past 14 years: a short segment of sidewalk in the Town of Engelhard. Outside of this small exception, sidewalks and dedicated bicycle facilities are virtually nonexistent throughout the County. As a result, residents face substantial challenges accessing daily destinations without relying on a personal vehicle.

Hyde County Transit plays a critical role in addressing these mobility gaps by providing rural public transportation services for all residents. The system offers non-emergency medical transportation, employment-related trips, routes serving senior centers, and service through the Rural General Public Program.

Sidewalk Improvement in Engelhard



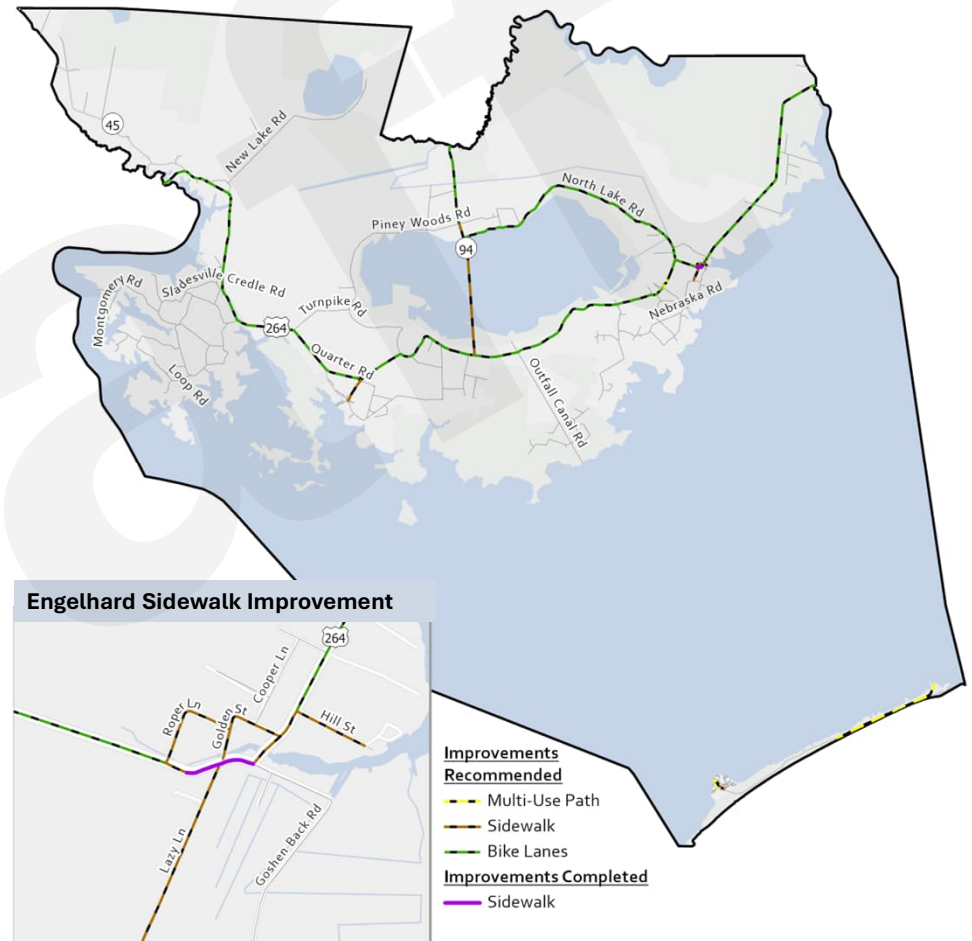
Boardwalk along Far Creek in Engelhard



Transportation & Land Use in Mainland Hyde County

Given that the Mainland’s transportation network is entirely dependent on highways without appropriate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, land use is likely to remain rural and low density.

Updated Map of Mainland CTP Recommendations



Transportation in Ocracoke

On Ocracoke Island, people walking, riding bikes, or driving golf carts share the road with vehicular traffic. The slower pace of life, narrow streets, and small population make this possible and necessary as there are few sidewalks and no separate lanes for biking or golf carting. There is one multi-use path (separated trail for people walking and biking) along NC 12 from the Ocracoke Campground to South Point Drive.

Although the 2012 CTP recommends extending the multi-use path from the Hatteras Ferry to the Ocracoke pony pen, chronic shoreline erosion and frequent washouts along NC-12 make implementation impractical.

In 2018, Hyde County, with support from the Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board and the state, launched the Ocracoke Village Tram. This free tram service runs from mid-May to mid-September each year and complements the Ocracoke Express Passenger Ferry, a car-free alternative to the vehicle ferries serving the island.

Ocracoke CTP Improvements



Existing Conditions & Key Issues

NC 12 & Ferry Service



Ferry service remains one of the most essential transportation assets for Hyde County—particularly for Ocracoke, which is accessible only by air or water. NCDOT's ferry system provides year-round connections between Ocracoke, Cedar Island, Hatteras, and Swan Quarter, forming the backbone of the island's economic and supply chain access.

Ocracoke's long-term transportation access is increasingly strained by coastal hazards and the escalating difficulty of maintaining NC 12 and the South Dock ferry terminal. Ongoing shoreline erosion has damaged key ferry-support facilities at South Dock and left adjacent segments of NC 12 highly susceptible to wash outs and routine flooding.

A 2025 UNC-led study using coastal evolution modeling further concluded that, under projected sea-level rise and future storm scenarios, traditional maintenance strategies—such as dune rebuilding and sandbagging—will offer diminishing effectiveness, making this corridor progressively harder to sustain over time. These structural vulnerabilities coincide with rising systemwide operating and capital needs, contributing to recurring discussions at the state level about updating ferry funding mechanisms and fare structures.

Given NC 12's accelerating deterioration, Ocracoke cannot support increased density or new construction while struggling to maintain access to its existing built environment. Without major investment, the island faces growing limits on mobility, economic stability, and long-term viability—raising the likelihood that some infrastructure and development may ultimately need to be relocated or abandoned in response to ongoing coastal change.

Ocracoke Ferry Routes

Ferry	Description
Hatteras Ferry	70-minute vehicle ferry from Hatteras Island to northern Ocracoke Island ferry terminal.
Ocracoke Express Ferry	Seasonal passenger and bicycle ferry lasting 70 minutes from Hatteras Island to Silver Lake Harbor, in the heart of Ocracoke.
Cedar Island Ferry	2.5 hour ferry from Cedar Island Ferry to Ocracoke South Terminal in Silver Lake Harbor.
Swan Quarter Ferry	2 hours and 40 minutes ferry from Swan Quarter to Ocracoke South Terminal in Silver Lake Harbor.

Population



Permanent Population

Permanent population is the measure of people who live in Hyde County throughout the year. The permanent population of Hyde County in 2020 was 4,589, reflecting a 21% (or 1,221 person) decrease since the 2010 US Census. The permanent population of Hyde County in 2010 was 5,810 which was a 0.3% (or 16 person) decrease since the 2000 US Census.

The population trends between Mainland Hyde County and Ocracoke vary significantly. Between 2000 and 2010, the Mainland Hyde County population decreased by 3.9% to 4,862 in 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, the Mainland Hyde County population decreased by 22% to 3,792 in 2020. Conversely, Ocracoke experienced a 23.3% increase in population between 2000 and 2010, but a 15.9% decrease in population between 2010 and 2020.

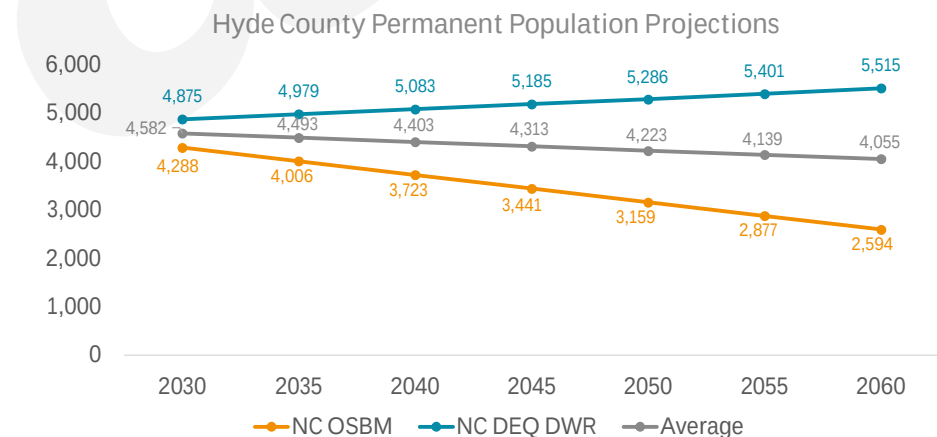
Compared to statewide population trends, North Carolina is growing at a faster rate than Hyde County. The North Carolina population has increased by 18.5% between 2000 and 2010 and by 9.5% between 2010 and 2020. Over the past two decades, the North Carolina population has grown by 29.7% while Hyde County (both Mainland and Ocracoke) has decreased by 21.2% according to the 2000, 2010, and 2020 US Census Bureau.

Geography	2000	2010	2020	Change 2000→2010	Change 2010→2020	Change 2000→2020
Hyde County (Mainland and Ocracoke)	5,826	5,810	4,589	-16 (-0.3%)	-1,221 (-21.0%)	-1,237 (-21.2%)
Mainland Hyde County	5,057	4,862	3,792	-195 (-3.9%)	-1,070 (-22.0%)	-1,265 (-25.0%)
Ocracoke	769	948	797	+179 (+23.3%)	-151 (-15.9%)	+28 (+3.6%)
North Carolina	8,049,313	9,535,483	10,439,388	+1,486,170 (+18.5%)	+903,905 (+9.5%)	+2,390,075 (+29.7%)

Data from US Census Bureau (2000, 2010, 2020)

Permanent Population Projections

Population forecasts help inform future County needs. Permanent population projections give the County an idea of when and how much new residential and commercial land, roads, parks and other service are needed. The graph below shows three projected population growth scenarios in the County (Mainland and Ocracoke combined) between now and 2060 based on forecasts for Hyde County provided by the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources (NC DEQ DWR) Local Water Supply Plan. While NC OSBM forecasts a population decline and NC DEQ DWR projects a gradual increase, the scenarios were averaged for each year to account for this uncertainty. Planning for possible population decline necessitates resilience strategies that account for the County's substantial seasonal population and the continued demand it places on infrastructure and community resources.



Data from North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Local Water Supply Plan (2025)

Population



Seasonal Population

Seasonal population (i.e., population present for less than six months per year) is a significant contributor to future impacts on the environment, growth and development, and demand for infrastructure and other governmental services on Ocracoke Island. The vast majority of governmental and other public services, such as water, electricity, emergency management capabilities, roadways and ferry service must be sufficient (or be adjusted to be sufficient) to meet not just average, but “peak,” or maximum demands generated by the large transient population present on Ocracoke Island during the peak summer vacation season (between May and October).

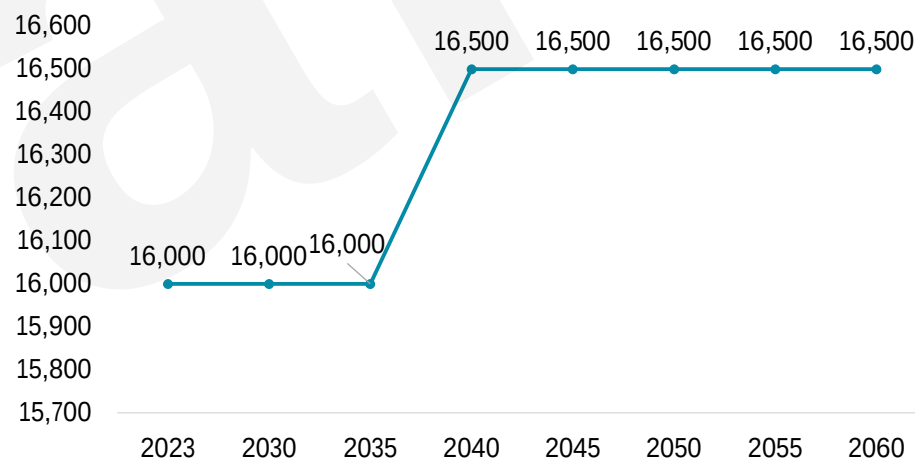
A key indicator of seasonal population is ferry traffic. Ocracoke Island is accessible only by boat, with most visitors arriving by ferry service operated by the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Based on consultations with NCDOT, the Ocracoke Sanitary District estimates the current peak summer seasonal population at 16,000 persons, in addition to the permanent population with the highest monthly water discharges occurring in July and August. These estimates include “day trippers” (i.e., visitors not staying overnight on the Island) and vary widely depending on weather and economic conditions.

Seasonal populations fluctuations also occur on the Hyde County mainland. The County’s vast game lands attract hunters and fishermen, especially during the peak season of October through February. The winter seasonal population increases during the October through January period when permitted bear hunting season and duck hunting season overlap. Most lodging for seasonal visitors is private homes and lodges, and therefore, the number of seasonal visitors and the number of overnight visitors is difficult to estimate.

Seasonal Population Projections

Defining accurate population projections in a community with large seasonal populations can be challenging due to many housing units varying in tenure between seasonal occupancy, rental occupancy, and permanent occupancy. As such, projected water usage from the Ocracoke Sanitary district can be a good indicator of future population growth. According to the NC DEQ DWR Local Water Supply Plan, all seasonal population is attributed to Ocracoke.

Hyde County Seasonal Population Projection



Data from Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Local Water Supply Plan (2025)

Population

Race and Ethnicity

The demographics of the populations of Mainland Hyde County and Ocracoke Island vary significantly, with Mainland being much more diverse than Ocracoke.

Approximately 53% of the Mainland’s population identified as white, 29% identified as Black or African American, 15% identified as two or more races, nearly 2% identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, and 1% identified as some other race alone according to the 2024 5-Year Estimates of the American Community Survey. Approximately 85% of Ocracoke’s population identified as white with 15% identifying as two or more races according to the 2024 American Community Survey.

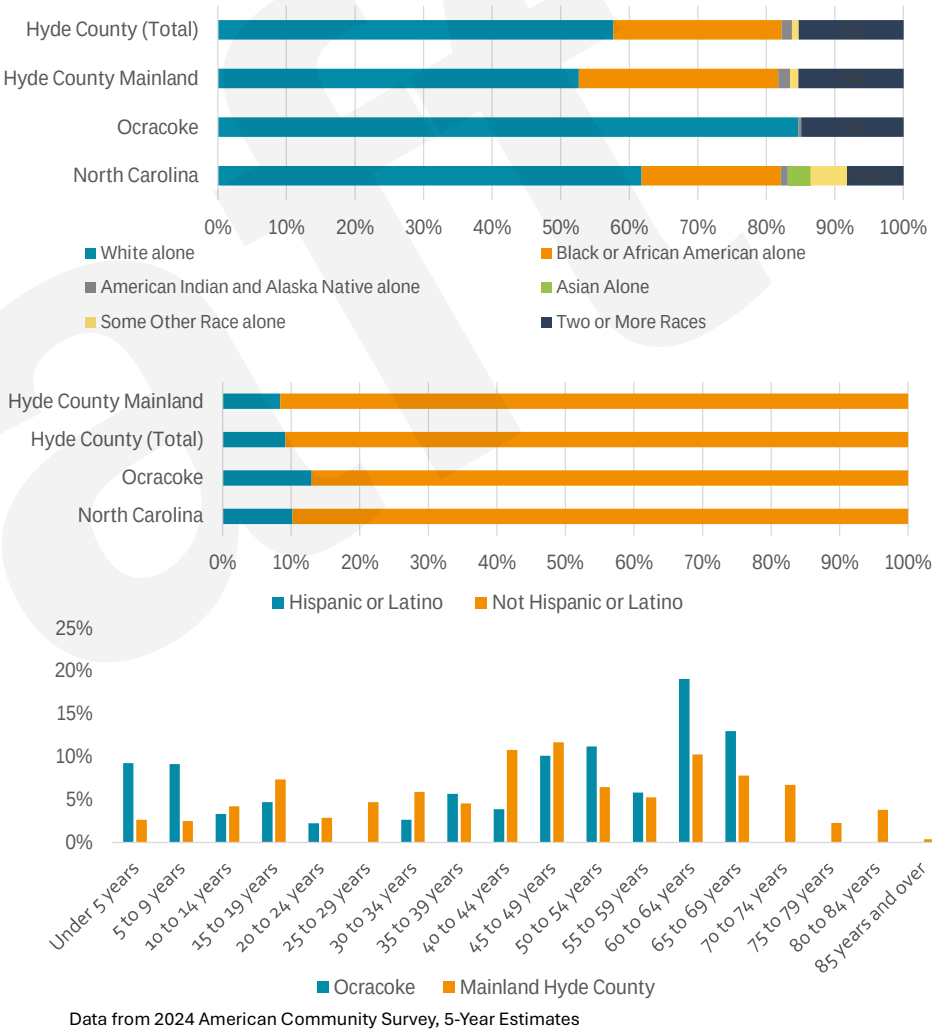
Compared to North Carolina, Hyde County (including Mainland and Ocracoke) is slightly more diverse with a lower percentage of white residents, a higher percentage of Black or African American residents, and nearly double the population of residents identifying as two or more races (2024 5-Year Estimates, American Community Survey).

Ocracoke has a relatively high Hispanic or Latino population with 15% identifying as such as of 2024. Compared to North Carolina, Mainland has a slightly lower proportion of the population identifying as Hispanic or Latino whereas Ocracoke has nearly double the state percentage.

Age Demographics

The median age in Hyde County is estimated to be 47.1 which is nearly a decade higher than the median age of 39.4 in North Carolina.

Nearly 20% of Ocracoke’s population is 9 years old or younger and 60% is 45 years old or older. On the Mainland, 36% of the population is between 15 and 44 years old and 55% of the population is 45 years old or older.



Housing



Housing Tenure and Occupancy

There are 2,952 housing units in Hyde County with 2,241 homes on Mainland Hyde County and 711 homes on Ocracoke according to ACS 2024 5-Year Estimates. Nearly 70% of the homes on the Mainland (1,552 housing units) are permanently occupied with 49% being owner occupied and 20% being renter occupied. Approximately 30% of homes on the Mainland are vacant (689 units). Of those vacant houses, 18% are seasonal (393 housing units) and 13% are sold, but not occupied or some other form of vacant.

Roughly half of the homes on Ocracoke are permanently occupied (387 housing units) with 42% being owner occupied and 13% being renter occupied. Approximately half are vacant (324 housing units) with 20% of those vacant units being seasonal. The remaining 25% of the vacant housing units are up for rent or some other form of vacant.

Both the Mainland and Ocracoke have a similar percentage of their total housing units serving the seasonal population, reflecting the two tourism draws to Hyde County – the summer trips to Ocracoke and the winter trips to Mainland for hunting and fishing activities.

Mainland



Ocracoke



Local input indicates that the 2024 ACS data over estimates the number of vacant housing units on both the Mainland and Ocracoke.

Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Housing

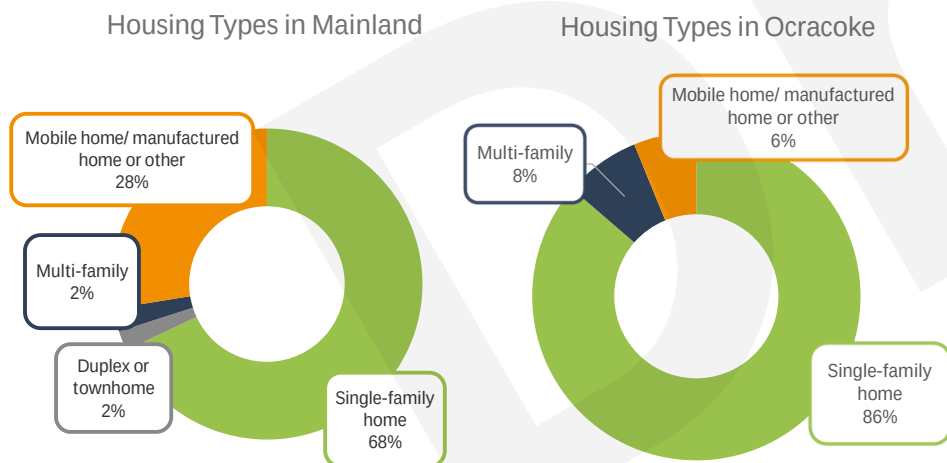


Housing Type

The dominant housing type for both Mainland Hyde County and Ocracoke is single-family housing (1,524 and 614 houses respectively). There is slightly greater housing diversity on the Mainland with 32% of housing being multi-family, duplex or townhomes, mobile homes/ manufactured homes or some other form such as boats, vans, or RVs.

On Ocracoke, 86% of housing are single-family homes with the other 14% being multi-family or mobile homes/manufactured homes or some other form such as boats, vans, or RVs.

The relatively high percentage of mobile/manufactured homes in the County may contribute to greater vulnerability as these types of structures are more susceptible to damage from high winds, flooding, and other natural hazards.

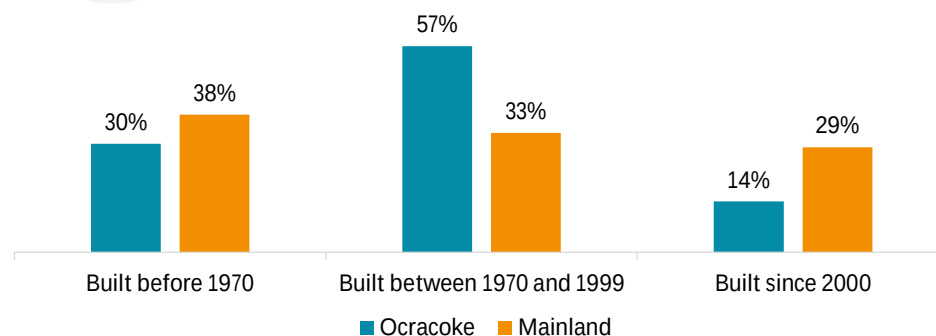


Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Housing Age

Hyde County has a relatively older housing stock, with both the Mainland and Ocracoke having at least 30% of their housing being built prior to 1970. Ocracoke has nearly 70% of the housing stock built between 1970 and 1999 where Mainland has roughly half the percentage of housing built during that time. Conversely, the Mainland has nearly double the percentage of housing built since 2000 compared to Ocracoke during the same time period. Both the Mainland and Ocracoke's median year of housing built is ten years older than the state as a whole.

Many historic houses (i.e., those over 50 years of age) are difficult to replace or duplicate in terms of beauty and overall appeal. The charm and character of the many older houses, particularly on Ocracoke, remain essential to the County's efforts to attract new visitors and residents. An older housing stock also brings challenges and costs and can be more costly to maintain than newer units. An aging housing stock can present an impediment to economic development as low- and moderate-income households have a difficult time locating affordable housing that is in good condition.



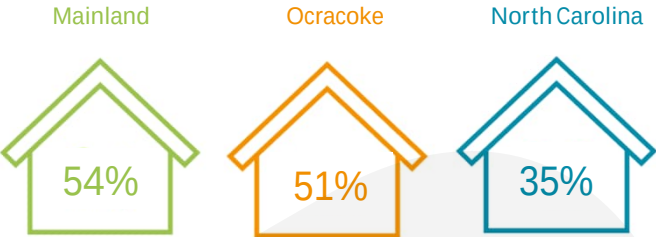
Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Housing

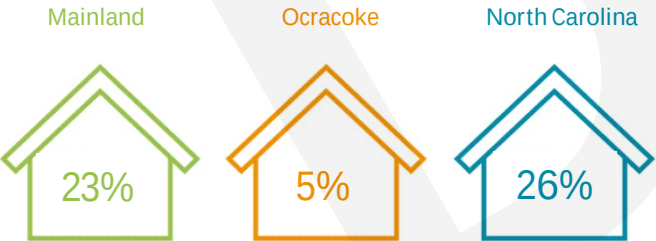
Median Year of Housing Built



Percent of Residents Who Moved into Home Before 2009



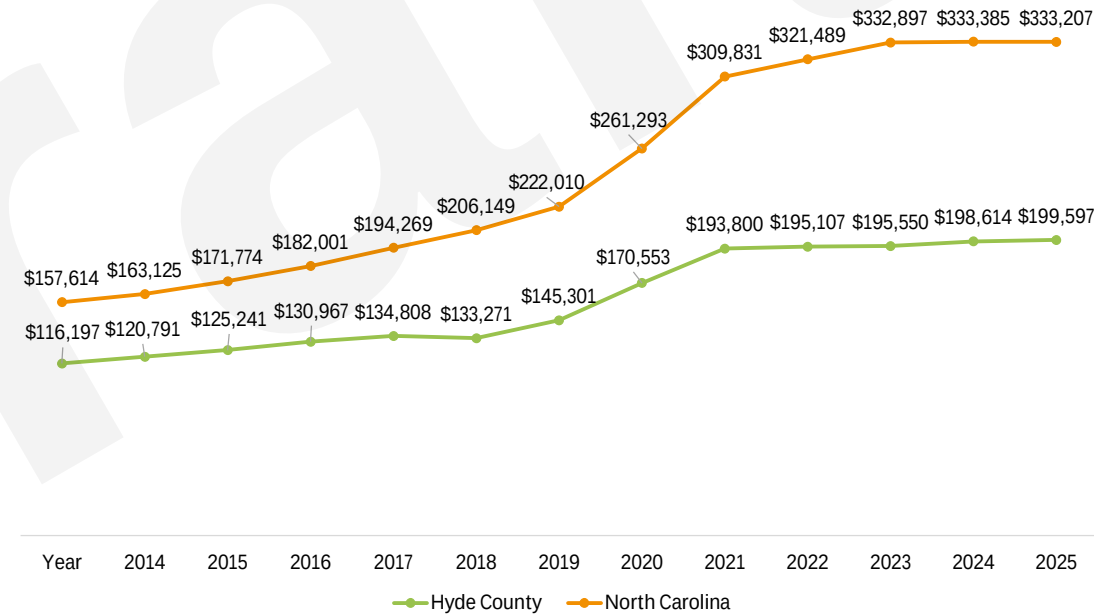
Percent of Residents Who Moved into Home After 2020



Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Home Values

The average price of a single-family home has experienced a similarly increasing trend compared to the state costs over the last ten years according to the Zillow Home Value Index. The largest increase in price occurred between 2017 and 2021 with prices becoming more stable between 2022 and 2025. As of 2025, the average price of a single-family home in Hyde County is \$199,597 compared to the state average price of \$333,207.



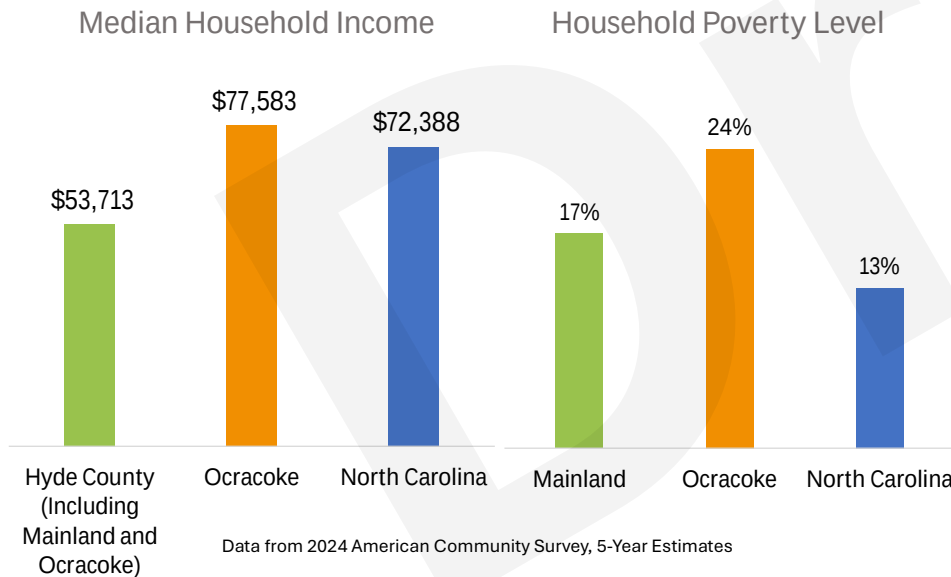
Data obtained from the Zillow Home Value Index

Economy



Household Income

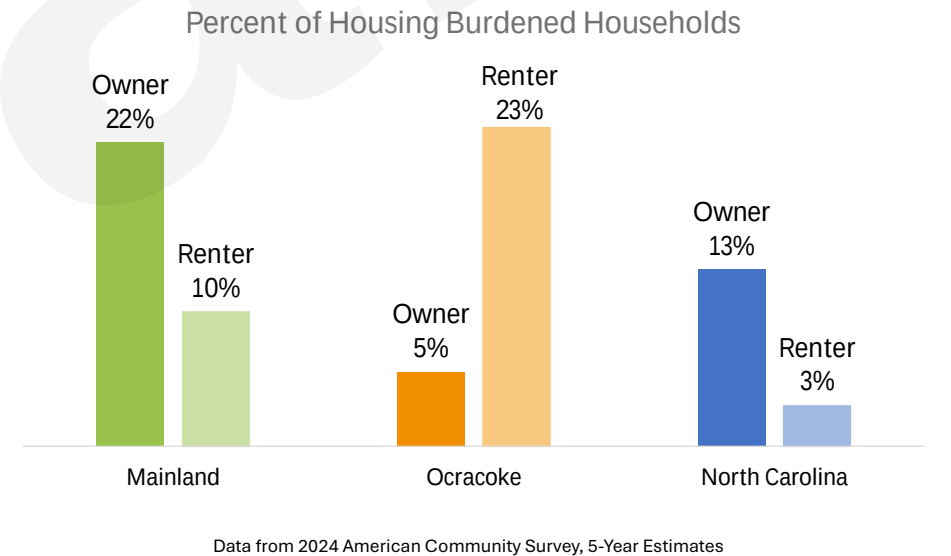
Median household income measures the middle point of household income in a specific area. The median household income in Ocracoke is significantly higher than the County (including both Mainland and Ocracoke). Compared to North Carolina, Ocracoke’s median household income is over \$5,000 dollars higher at \$77,583. In other words, 50% of households on Ocracoke make less than \$77,583 per year while the other 50% of households make more than that. The County’s median household income is nearly \$23,870 lower per year than Ocracoke.



Housing Burden

The household poverty level on the Mainland and Ocracoke is higher than the state level. Ocracoke’s poverty rate of 24% is nearly double that of North Carolina’s despite having a higher median income; this is possibly due to a high number of residents with remote jobs and an influx of immigrant Latino/a laborers. This dynamic may also be reflective of the tourist economy on the island where many property owners are also business owners or have remote jobs, which contributes to an economic profile that differs from a primarily service-based economy.

A household is considered housing burdened if it spends more than 30% of its income on housing per year. Mainland and Ocracoke have similar housing burden rates; 20% of Mainland homeowners are house burdened whereas 23% of Ocracoke renters are house burdened. Combined, roughly 30% of households on the Mainland and Ocracoke are house burdened compared to North Carolina’s rate of 16%.



Economy



Mainland Hyde County

The Mainland economy of Hyde County is predominantly agriculture-based, with farmland accounting for roughly 26 percent of the land area and cropland making up about 95 percent of that farmland. Agriculture remains largely family-driven—approximately 84 percent of farms are family farms—and the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture identifies 247 people as agricultural producers in the County. For residents not working on family farms, employment opportunities are limited and highly concentrated. Many work in agricultural support roles for Rose Acre Farms, Inc., a large-scale egg producer and concentrated animal feeding operation that is the County’s largest private employer, or in the public sector through County government and the school system. Outside of agriculture, public administration, education, and health services make up a sizable share of mainland employment, underscoring a narrow economic base with relatively few alternative job pathways.

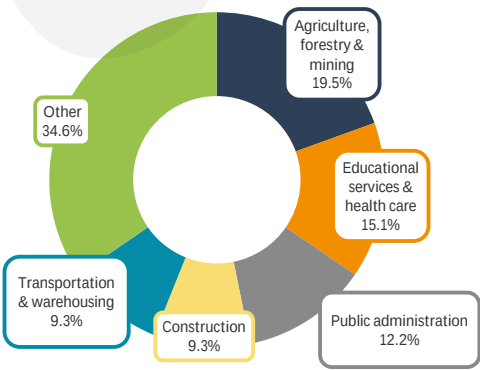
Ocracoke Island

Ocracoke’s economy is fundamentally different from the Mainland and does not include agricultural production. Instead, it relies heavily on tourism and visitor-serving industries, with employment concentrated in real estate, retail trade, accommodation, food services, arts, entertainment, and transportation. The island’s economy is characterized by locally-owned businesses that are primarily operated by year-round residents rather than large external employers, resulting in a small-scale, service-oriented business environment. In recent years, residents have anecdotally noted an increase in remote workers relocating to Ocracoke, adding a modest but growing non-tourism employment segment tied to professional and digital work conducted off-island. Employment remains closely tied to seasonal visitation patterns and the capacity of local businesses to support the island’s economy year-round.

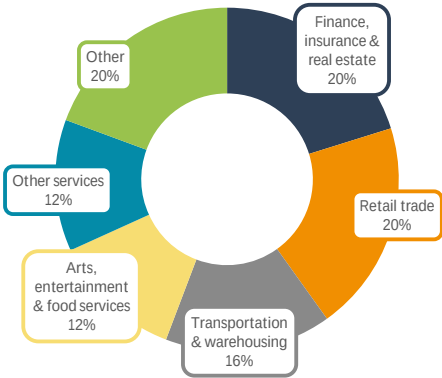
Top 5 Employers in Hyde County

Rank	Company	Industry	Class	Employment Range
1	Rose Acre Farms Inc	Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	Private sector	100-249
2	Hyde County	Public administration	Public sector	100-249
3	Hyde County Board of Education	Educational services	Public sector	100-249
4	NC Department of Transportation	Public administration	Public sector	50-99
5	Heron Hospitality, LLC	Accommodation and food services	Private sector	Below 50

Mainland Industry Distribution



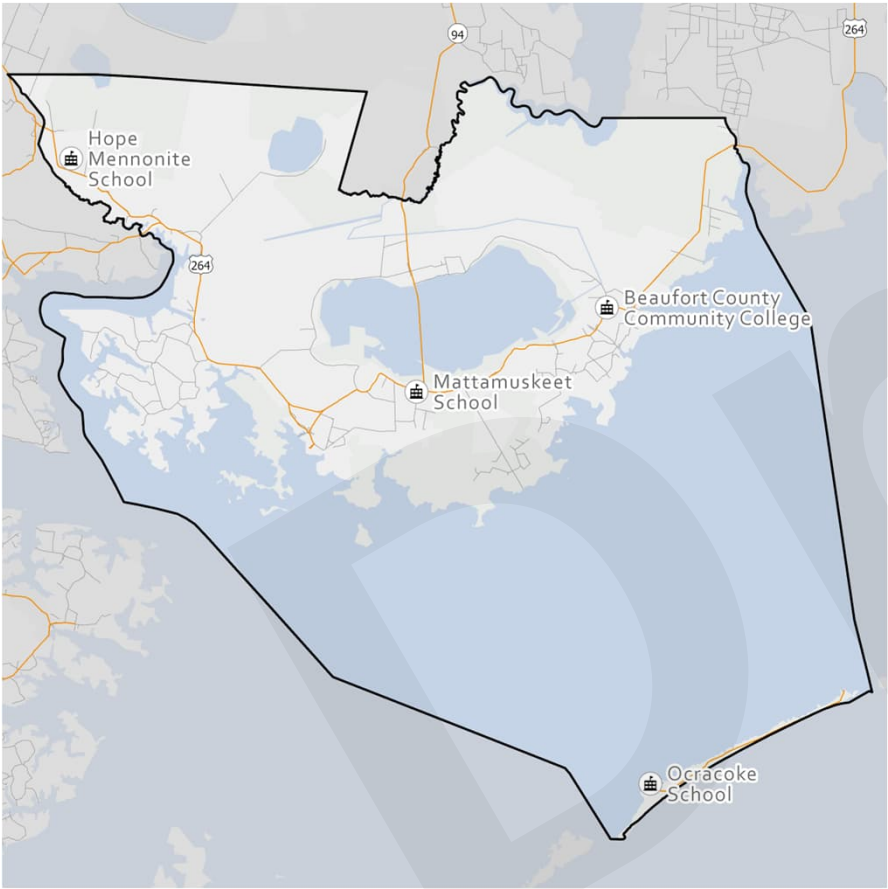
Ocracoke Industry Distribution



Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates and 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture

Community Infrastructure

Map of Educational Institutions in Hyde County



Mainland Hyde County is home to three education institutions and Ocracoke has one. Hope Mennonite School is a private school in the Pantego community and has students in grades 1st through 10th.

Mattamuskeet School on the Mainland and Ocracoke School on Ocracoke are both public pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools.

Beaufort County Community College has a satellite location, the Hyde County Davis Center, located in Engelhard. This center provides continuing education opportunities, a high school equivalency program, and a small business center that offers business counseling.

Percent of Population Over 25 Years Old with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Mainland



10.6%

Ocracoke



39.7%

North Carolina



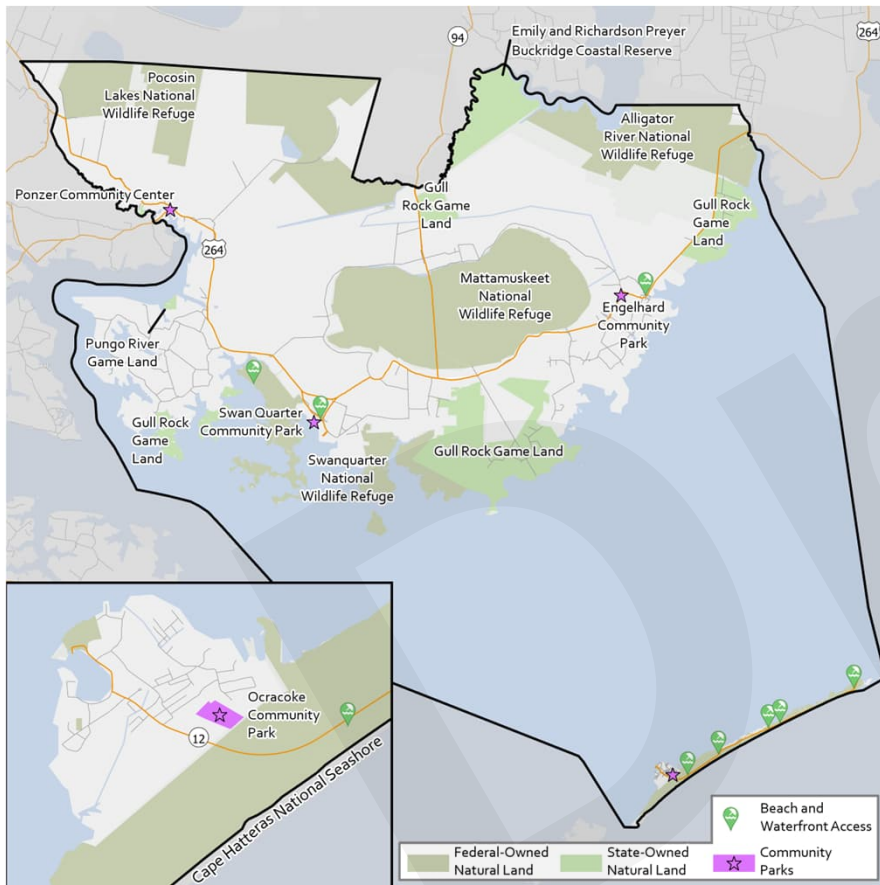
35.7%

There is a stark difference in education rates in the County when compared to North Carolina. For residents 25 years old or older, only 10.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher on the Mainland which is over three times less than the state rate of 35.7%. However, Ocracoke has a rate of 39.7% which is 4% higher than the state rate, indicating a greater concentration of residents with higher educational attainment.

Data from 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Community Infrastructure

Parks, Game Land, Wildlife Refuges, & Beach and Waterfront Access Locations in Hyde County



Hyde County is home to a variety of green spaces including federal and state-owned natural lands, community parks, and beach and waterfront access areas. These spaces provide both residents and tourists with opportunities for recreation, outdoor enjoyment, and connection to the County's unique coastal environment.

In total, there are three community parks on the Mainland and one on Ocracoke. There are three beach and waterfront access areas on the Mainland and five throughout Ocracoke. Together, these amenities contribute to the County's recreational network by providing free and accessible opportunities for outdoor activity and enjoyment of the area's scenic and ecological character.

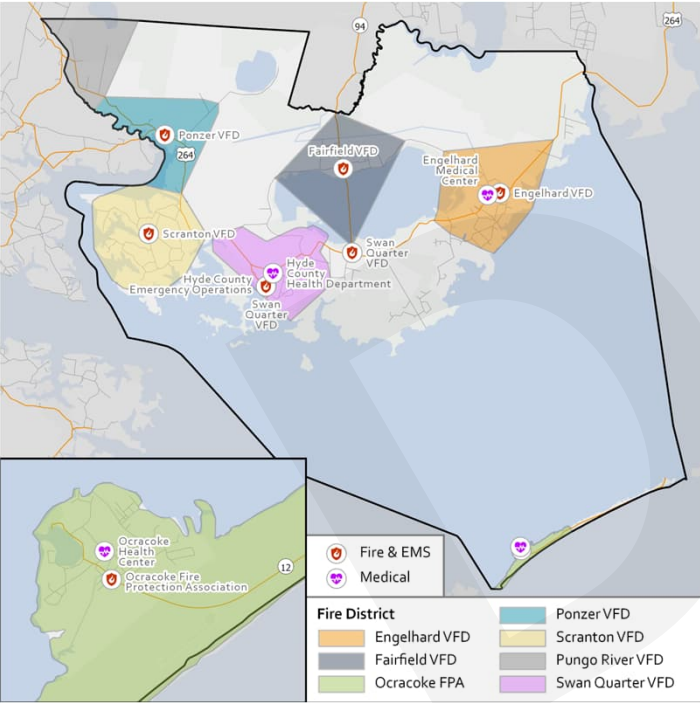
There are numerous festivals throughout the year that celebrate the County's scenic natural environment:

- Hyde County Waterfowl Festival
- Hyde County Farm Day
- Engelhard Seafood Festival
- Ocracoke Seafood Festival
- Ocracoke Fig Festival
- Working Watermen's Festival
- Blackbeard's Pirate Jamboree
- Festival Latino de Ocracoke
- Ocracoke Parade of Boats

Community Infrastructure

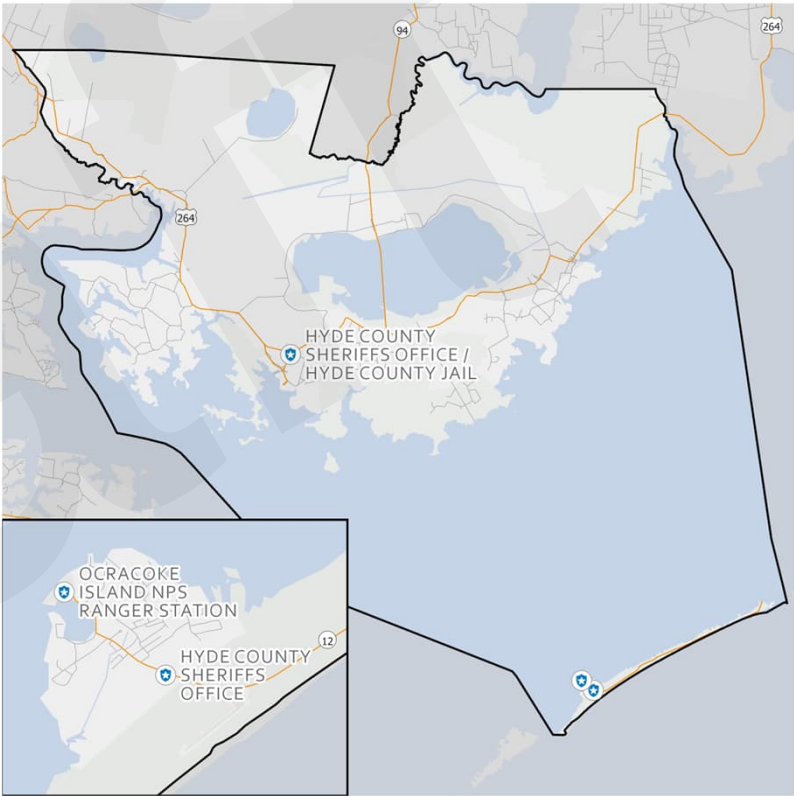
Health and Emergency Services

There is currently no major, acute-care hospital located in the County which creates a rural healthcare challenge. The Vidant Pungo Hospital served the County until it was closed in 2014, leaving residents with much higher drive times to the next nearest hospitals in neighboring counties. The County is currently serviced by the Engelhard Medical Center and the Ocracoke Health Center. Regarding emergency services, the Mainland has six volunteer fire department service areas and Ocracoke is served by a fire protection association.



- According to the Hyde County 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment...
- The County falls below the state and national averages in total health outcomes and health factors
 - 100% of the population lives in a Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Area
 - The percentage of adults in the County with heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, stroke, and poor dental health are all higher than the state and national average
 - Deaths of despair (deaths from suicide and drug/alcohol poisoning) are significantly higher in the County compared to the state and national average
 - Cancer incidence is lower in the County compared to both state and national averages
 - Pre-mature age adjusted mortality is higher in the County than the state average and life expectancy is lower in the County compared to state and national averages

Law Enforcement Locations



The County has two sheriffs offices, one in Swan Quarter on the Mainland and one on Ocracoke. Ocracoke additionally has a National Park Ranger's station located near Silver Lake Harbor. The County has one medium and minimum-security prison located in Swan Quarter on the Mainland.

Water Infrastructure



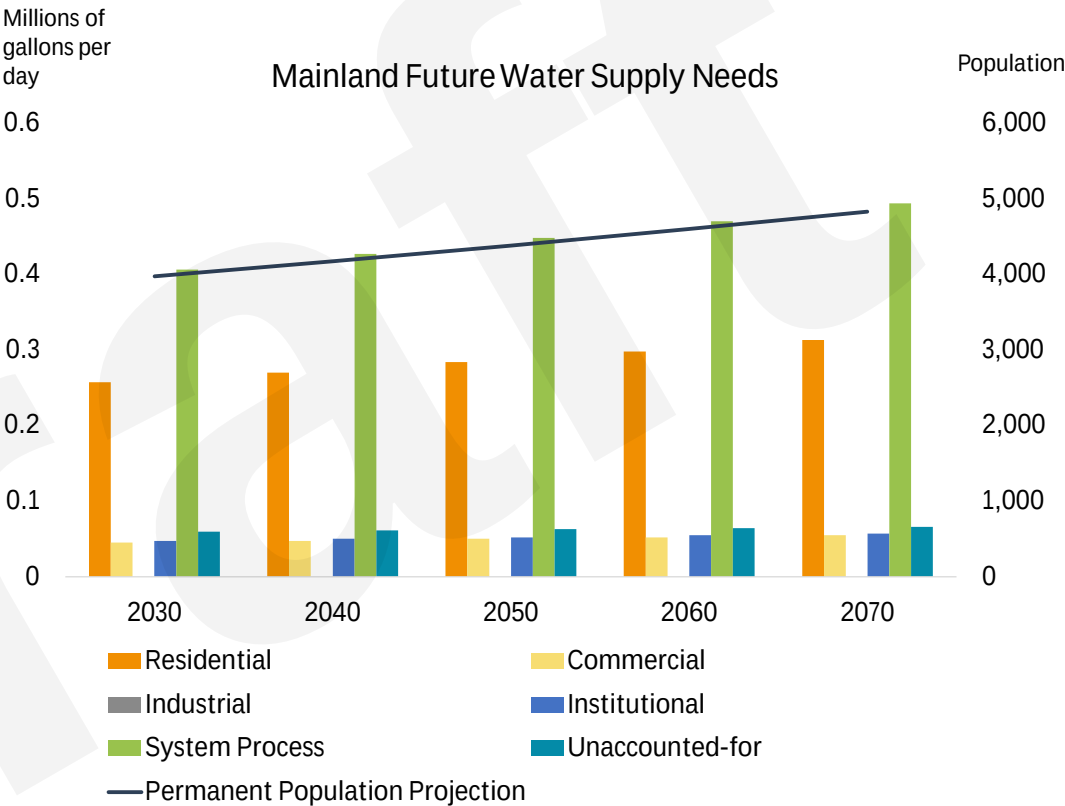
Mainland Hyde County

The Mainland portion of Hyde County maintains about 200 miles of water distribution lines, with 500 feet replaced in 2025 to support system reliability. The system has a storage capacity of 1.25 million gallons and uses reverse osmosis treatment, drawing water from the Castle Hayne and Yorktown aquifers. It serves eastern Beaufort County and Mainland Hyde County through six protected wells and approximately 2,101 connections. Average daily usage is estimated at 434,000 gallons at Ponzer, 172,000 gallons at Fairfield, and 155,000 gallons at Engelhard. Ponzer supplies water to Rose Acre Farms, an egg producing operation, which accounts for its outsized water usage.

Overall, the system is in good condition and operating reliably. Current improvements include refurbishing elevated water tanks (nearing completion) and planned upgrades to booster pump stations using grant funding. While no major maintenance issues are known, future replacement of reverse osmosis membranes will be needed over time. The system is well-positioned to address emerging contaminants such as PFAS and has sufficient capacity to meet projected population growth from 3,786 in 2025 to about 4,830 by 2070.

The system has some limitations for fire protection. Water lines are not sized to provide adequate fire flow, so firefighting relies on tanker trucks, support from neighboring departments, and alternative sources such as canals. New developments, such as the new Lake Mattamuskeet school, must include on-site water storage to meet fire protection needs.

Hyde County’s water treatment plants have experienced very few water quality issues in recent years. As of June 2026, the only reported violations since 2012 occurred at the Fairfield Water Treatment Plan in August 2019, January 2021, and August 2024, where turbidity (cloudiness in the water) exceeded state regulatory thresholds according to NCDEQ’s Washington Regional Office.



Data from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Local Water Supply Plan (2025)

Cleaning water takes water, which is why system processes are often the most intensive water use. These processes can include pumping water from aquifer, reverse osmosis, disinfection, etc.

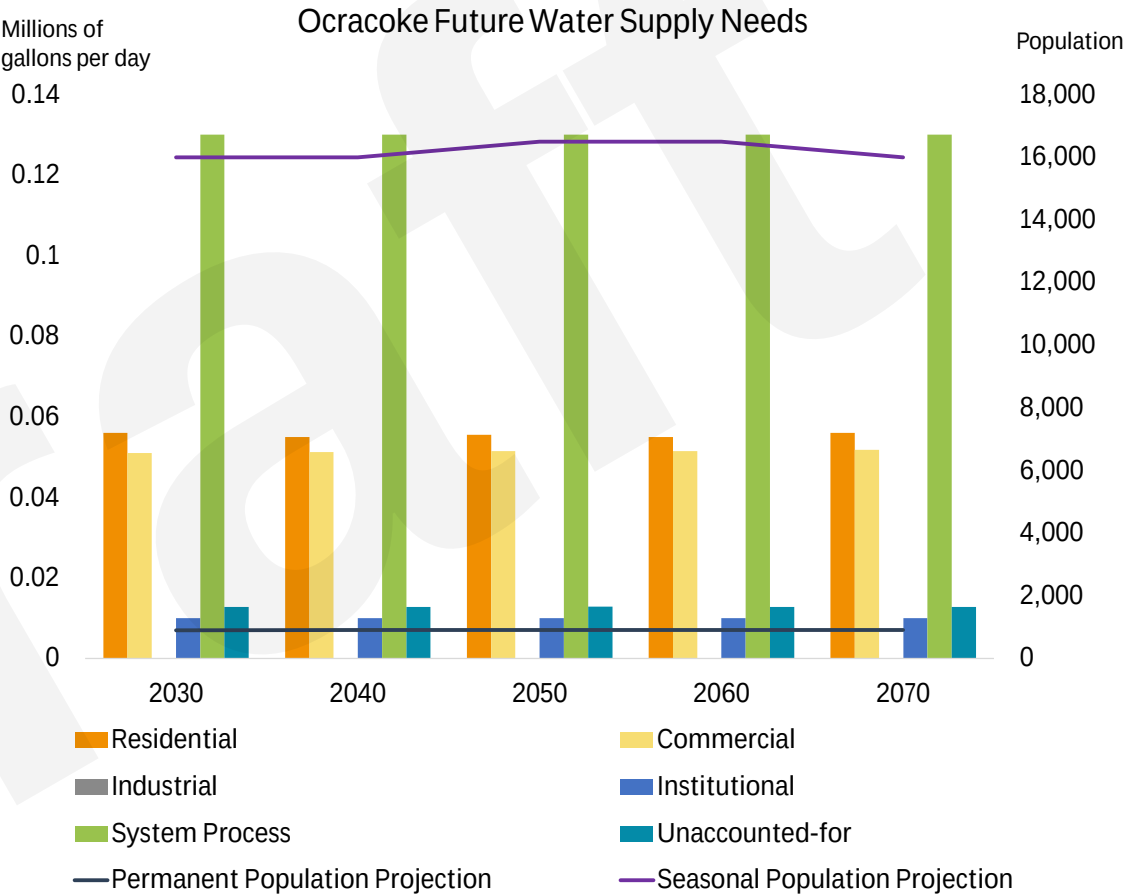
Water Infrastructure

Ocracoke

The Ocracoke Sanitary District provides drinking water for the island and maintains about 13 miles of water lines, according to the NC DEQ Division of Water Resources. In 2025, no new lines were added and no existing lines were replaced. The system can store about 0.55 million gallons of treated water and uses a reverse osmosis system to remove salt from the water. Ocracoke’s water supply comes from three wells that draw from the Castle Hayne Aquifer, which is carefully managed to help ensure there is enough water available over time but is also at risk of saltwater intrusion.

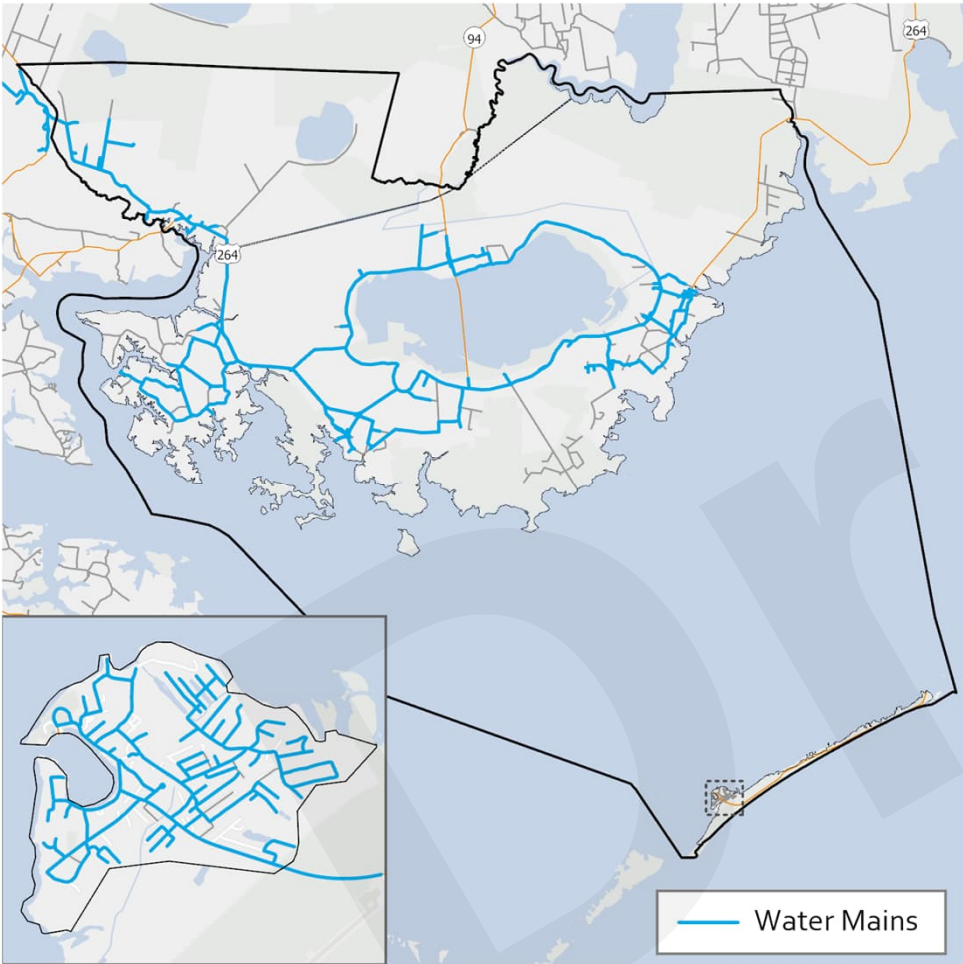
Ocracoke is planning upgrades, including replacing its aging water tower by the end of 2026, to help maintain water pressure and improve overall system reliability. According to state projections, the island has a year-round population of about 900 people, but that number increases to around 16,000 during peak tourist seasons. This pattern is expected to remain steady through 2070, with most water use coming from homes and everyday system operations.

Some areas of the island are not currently connected to the public water system and instead rely on private wells. There is strong community interest in identifying and connecting these areas due to public health concerns. Residents have reported strong odors and concerns about water quality, and private wells are expected to be tested for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are emerging contaminants of concern.

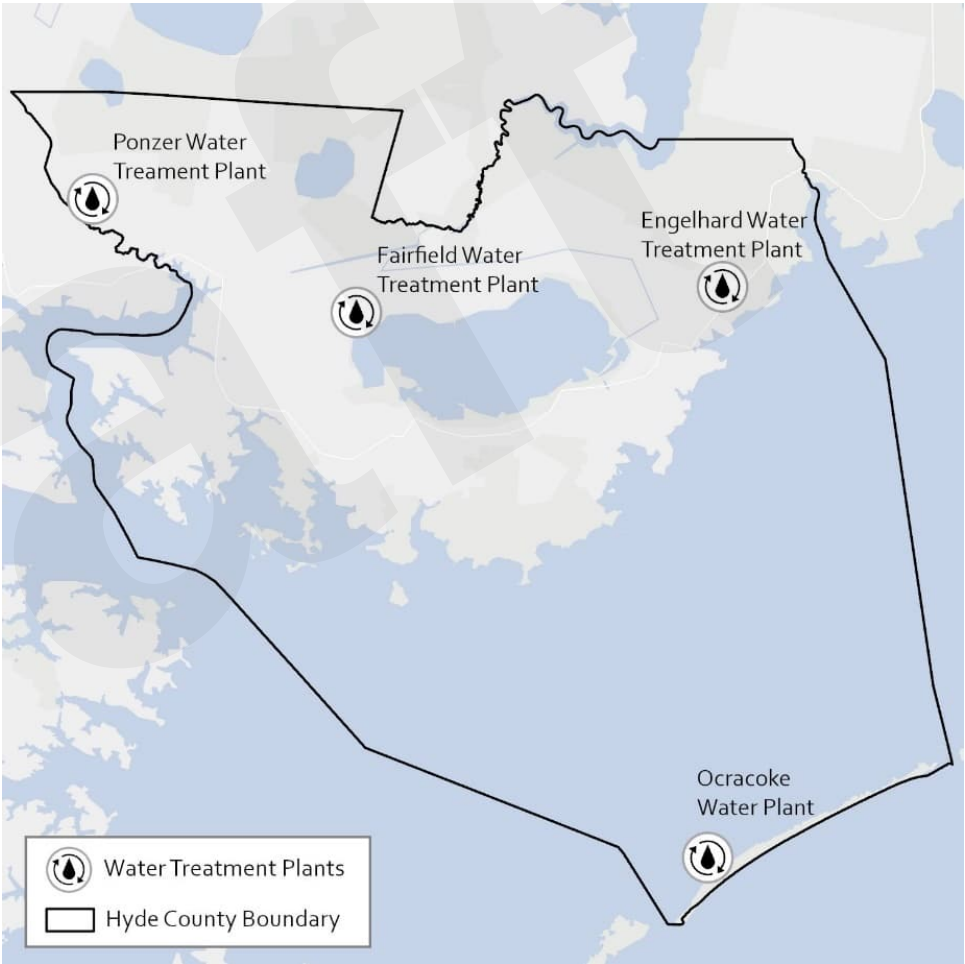


Data from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Local Water Supply Plan (2025)

Hyde County Water Supply Area



Hyde County Water Treatment Plants





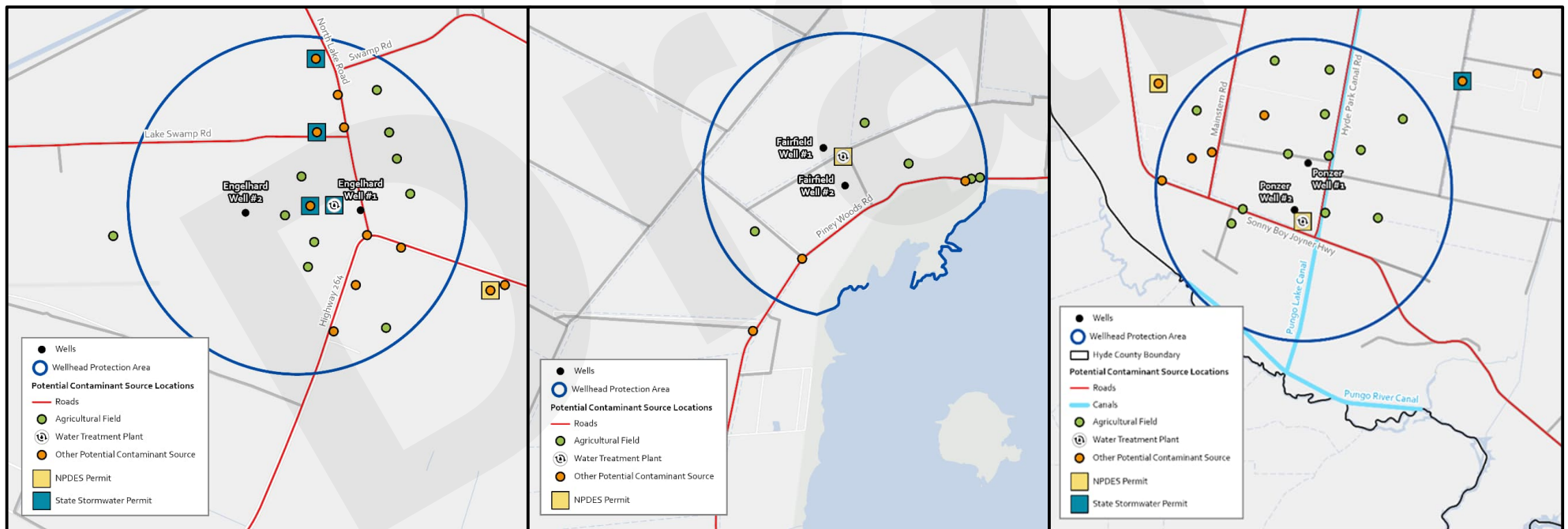
Hyde County Wellhead Protection Plan

A wellhead protection plan is a strategy for preventing contamination of public drinking water. This plan involves delineating zones around wells called wellhead protection areas, identifying potential contamination sources (PCS), and developing goals and objectives for maintaining clean drinking water.

According to the Hyde County Wellhead Protection Plan (2022), there are six wells in Hyde County located in three wellfields with two wells in each. These wellfields and the delineated wellhead protection areas are located in Engelhard, Fairfield, and Ponzer. Within the wellhead protection areas, there are a variety of potential contamination sources ranging from above ground storage tanks, other wells, septic systems, chemical storage, cemetery, medical facility, previous pollution incidents, underground storage tanks, major highways, water treatment plants, surface water, and agricultural fields.

Maps of each of the wellhead protection areas and wells can be seen below, differentiating between agricultural fields and other types of potential contaminant sources. Locations that have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or state stormwater permits are also shown on the maps.

The 2022 plan stated that all three wellfields are situated within highly confined aquifers, which reduces the risk of groundwater contamination from small spills near the surface. As such, it was identified that both Ponzer wells have the highest risk of contamination from the surface due to the nature and number of PCSs and the proximity of the PCSs near the wells. Both Fairfield wells were identified to be the least vulnerable in the County.



Community Infrastructure

Wastewater Infrastructure

On both the Mainland and Ocracoke, wastewater is handled mostly through private septic systems. There are two sanitary sewer systems, one in Engelhard and one in Swan Quarter. At this time, the only package plant owned by the County serves the Hyde County Correctional Center in Swan Quarter. No known chronic wastewater treatment failures were reported in a call with the Environmental Health Department of Hyde County Health Department, and NCDEQ's Washington Regional Office did not report any discharge violations for Hyde County's wastewater plants since 2012.

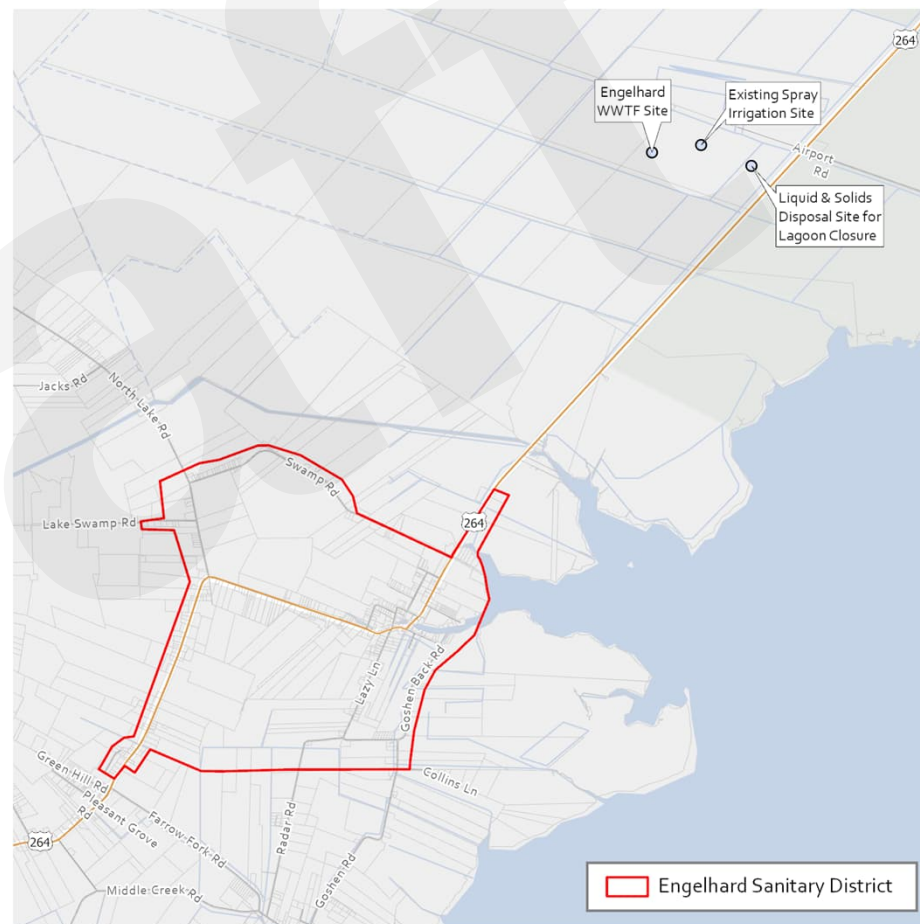
Engelhard Wastewater Treatment Plant

273 residential connections, 57 nonresidential

Regarding capacity, the Engelhard Sanitary District has a permitted flow of 64,000 gallons, but the average flow is around 14,000 gallons. Currently, the Engelhard Sanitary District faces a combination of aging infrastructure, financial strain, and limited management capacity. The NC Local Government commission has classified the district as: "distressed" due to lack of audits, financial mismanagement, lack of reporting, and system operation non-compliance. It requires ongoing repairs and upgrades, including issues with its lagoon system. Aging components, rising groundwater, and inflow and infiltration during heavy rains place additional stress on operations, sometimes requiring the system to run continuously during storms.

Oversight is handled by a board and a single long-term operator, creating challenges for maintaining institutional knowledge, recordkeeping, and long-term planning—issues common in small rural communities. Financially, the system struggles as many residents have difficulty affording sewer bills, limiting new connections, and some vacant properties do not contribute revenue. Despite receiving significant state and federal funding for improvements, including \$3.7 million in 2023, the system continues to operate at a deficit, with no rate increase since 2017 and an annual loss of about \$95,000, highlighting ongoing financial sustainability challenges. It also lacks an approved water supply and a longer-term water management plan.

Engelhard Sanitary District



Community Infrastructure



Swan Quarter Wastewater Treatment Plant

183 residential connections, 51 nonresidential

Swan Quarter's Sanitary District faces interconnected challenges related to capacity, finances, governance, and aging infrastructure that require a coordinated, long-term approach. The sanitary district is categorized as distressed for the same reasons as Engelhard – lack of audits, financial mismanagement, lack of reporting, and system operation non-compliance. It also does not have an approved water supply nor a longer-term water management plan.

The treatment plant is significantly oversized, designed for about 125,000 gallons per day but currently operating at only 12,000 to 15,000 gallons per day. This mismatch, driven in part by declining school enrollment compared to original design assumptions, creates inefficiencies and unnecessary costs.

The lagoon poses a particular infrastructure concern due to a failing liner that will require repair. Operational strain is compounded by having only one employee, while the large system places a disproportionate administrative and financial burden on a volunteer board. Despite over \$4.2 million in external funding since 2000, the District remains financially unstable, has not raised rates since 2020, and is classified as “distressed” due to missed audits. Governance limitations—including insufficient training, lack of financial and management systems, and reliance on institutional knowledge—further hinder effective oversight, long-term planning, and consistent maintenance.

Mainland Hyde Package Plants

Several facilities on the mainland use private wastewater disposal facilities known as “package plants” that provide a level of disinfection and treatment of wastewater beyond that of typical septic tank systems. Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge and the Mattamuskeet Schools both use such systems. The County only owns and operates one package plant – the lagoon and spray irrigation plant used for waste disposal at the Hyde Correctional Center. At the time this document was prepared, only limited information was available regarding the condition of Hyde County's Correctional Center package plant.

Swan Quarter Sanitary District



Wastewater Continued

Septic Issues in Hyde County

Many septic systems in Hyde County are experiencing ongoing challenges due to aging infrastructure, financial constraints, and environmental conditions. In low-lying coastal areas, rising groundwater levels associated with sea-level rise can saturate drain fields, reducing the effectiveness of wastewater treatment and increasing the risk of contamination to nearby surface and groundwater. These conditions make traditional septic systems less reliable over time, especially where proper separation from the water table cannot be maintained. To address these issues and support homeowners facing failing systems, Hyde County received \$500,000 funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems, particularly in the most vulnerable areas.



Bench at Lake Mattamuskeet, 2026. The Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge has a package treatment plant.

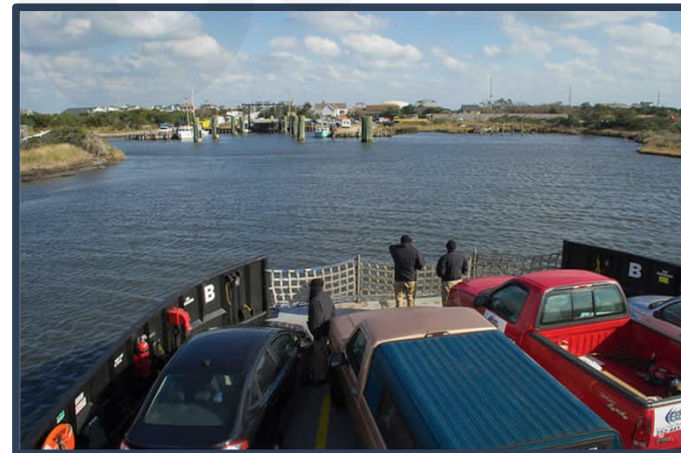
Ocracoke Wastewater Disposal



Ocracoke's wastewater is primarily handled via septic; however, it does have wastewater disposal systems that serve NPS and the NCDOT ferry.

The wastewater systems serving Ocracoke's ferry terminals are facing a mix of infrastructure challenges and ongoing maintenance needs. At the South Dock Terminal, the original wastewater system lost capacity due to regulatory setbacks and shoreline erosion, ultimately resulting in a system failure designation in 2024; the site now operates under a pump-and-haul approach, with wastewater transported offsite while the former drain field area has been restored.

At the Silver Lake Terminal, the dormitory septic system remains functional, and the Amphidrome treatment system—which serves the Ferry Division Comfort Center (including administrative offices and public lobby), the Ferry Division ticket booth, and the National Park Service Visitor Center and restrooms—is generally in good structural condition, though it has some operational issues that are being addressed. While key components like tanks and pumps are sound, the drip field is being left in a natural, unmaintained state per agreement with the National Park Service, and staff are working to ensure continued reliable operation.



Ocracoke Ferry Terminal – Silver Lake. Source: Crystal Coast NC

Community Infrastructure

Mainland Hyde County Stormwater Infrastructure

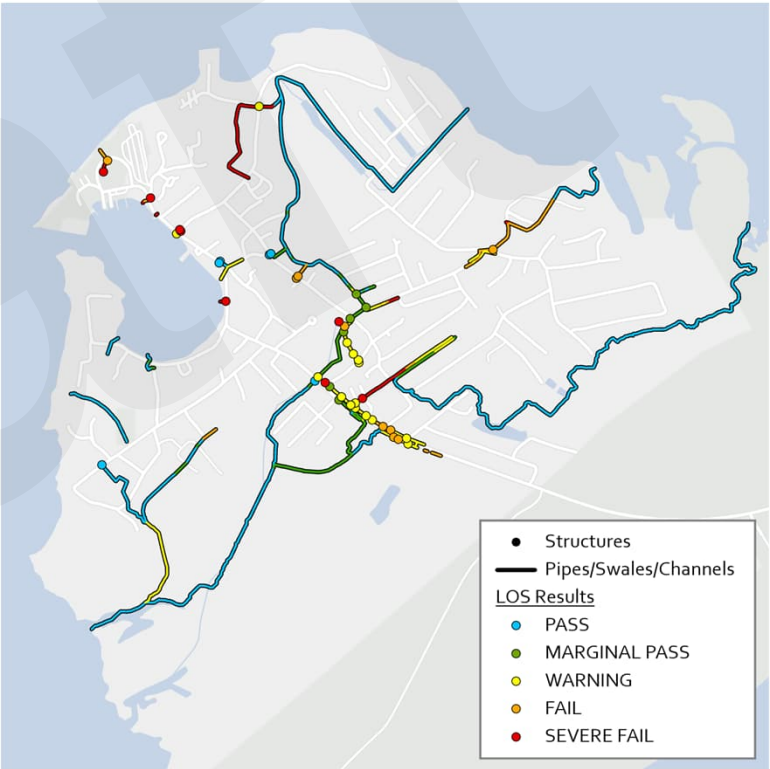
The Hyde County Soil and Water Conservation District is primarily responsible for stormwater management and drainage issues in the County with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Mattamuskeet Drainage Association Watershed Restoration Plan (2019) discusses the importance of reducing stormwater flows from Hyde County into the Pamlico Sound and nearby surface waters. Current strategies for stormwater management include restoring wetlands and routing stormwater runoff into filtration areas. The Mattamuskeet Drainage Association is leveraging the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to create conservation easements and restore wetlands.

Ocracoke Stormwater Infrastructure

Ocracoke Village relies on a network of ditches, pipes, culverts, and drains to move stormwater away from roads and properties, but much of this system is in poor condition and not functioning as intended. Many components are clogged with sand, sediment, and vegetation, while others are damaged or undersized, limiting their ability to carry water during storms. These problems, combined with the village's low elevation and exposure to tides, contribute to frequent flooding. System-wide assessments show that a majority of the infrastructure needs maintenance, and many areas do not meet acceptable performance standards during even moderate storm events, indicating that the existing system is both stressed and aging.

To address these issues, the 2025 Ocracoke Stormwater Master Plan proposes targeted infrastructure projects to improve how water moves through the village. Along key roads such as Irvin Garrish Highway and Ocean View Road, undersized pipes would be replaced with larger ones—often increasing from 12–18 inches to as much as 24–36 inches in diameter—to reduce bottlenecks and improve drainage. In areas like Back Road and Cutting Sage Road, underground infiltration chambers would be installed to add storage capacity and help manage stormwater more effectively, while roadside ditches would be restored and upgraded throughout the village. In low-lying, tide-influenced areas near Silver Lake and the ferry terminal, tide gates are proposed to prevent water from flowing back into the system during high tides. However, these improvements are costly and complex, with individual projects often estimated in the hundreds of thousands to over a million dollars, highlighting the significant investment needed to meaningfully improve drainage and reduce flooding across the village.

Level of Service (LOS) for Existing Stormwater Infrastructure in Ocracoke



Data source: Ocracoke Village Stormwater Master Plan 2025

Fragile Areas and Areas of Environmental Concern



CAMA establishes “Areas of Environmental Concern” (AECs) as the foundation of the Coastal Resources Commission’s permitting program for coastal development. An AEC is an area of natural importance: it may be easily destroyed by erosion or flooding; or it may have environmental, social, economic or aesthetic values that make it valuable.

In coastal North Carolina, fragile areas generally include coastal wetlands, ocean beaches and shorelines, estuarine waters and shorelines, public trust areas, complex natural areas, and areas sustaining remnant species, unique geological formations, registered natural landmarks, swamps, prime wildlife habitats, areas of excessive slope, areas of excessive erosion, scenic points, archaeological sites, historical sites, and 404 wetlands. While not identified as fragile areas in the 15A NCAC 7H use standards, maritime forest and outstanding resource waters (ORWs) should also be considered fragile areas

This Section discusses the AECs and fragile areas in Hyde County which include estuarine and ocean system, ocean hazard system, public water supplies, and natural and cultural resource areas.

Estuarine and Ocean System

Estuarine Water Shorelines

Estuaries serve as transition zones between fresh and salt water and are protected from the full force of ocean wind and waves by barrier islands, mudflats, and sand. The lands and waters of the estuarine system provide significant environmental and economic benefits to the County.

Within the County, estuarine waters include the waters of the Pungo, Long Shoal, and Alligator Rivers, Juniper Bay and Pamlico Sound, as well as all bays, rivers, and creeks feeding these waterways. Estuarine shorelines are land areas landward of mean high tide that are immediately adjacent to or bordering estuarine waters. These areas support the ecological function of estuaries and are highly vulnerable to erosion caused by wind or water and to damage caused by development. In the County, this includes the shoreline of Silver Lake.

Public Trust Areas

Public Trust Areas are the coastal waters and submerged lands that can be used for activities such as boating, swimming or fishing. These areas often overlap with estuarine waters, but they also include many inland fishing waters. All submerged lands adjacent to and within the Mainland and the sound side of Ocracoke should be considered public trust areas. Under CAMA regulations, all lands 30 feet landward of public trust areas are subject to the restrictions specified above for estuarine shoreline areas.



Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. Source: *VisitNC*

Fragile Areas and Areas of Environmental Concern



Primary Nursery Areas

Primary nursery areas are the riverine and estuarine habitats where larval fish and crustaceans live. These locations are often the shallowest areas of an estuarine system, particularly in salt marshes and habitats with soft mud bottoms. Secondary nursery areas are home to slightly older fish and crustaceans as they make their way into coastal waters; these nursery areas tend to be downstream from primary nursery areas.

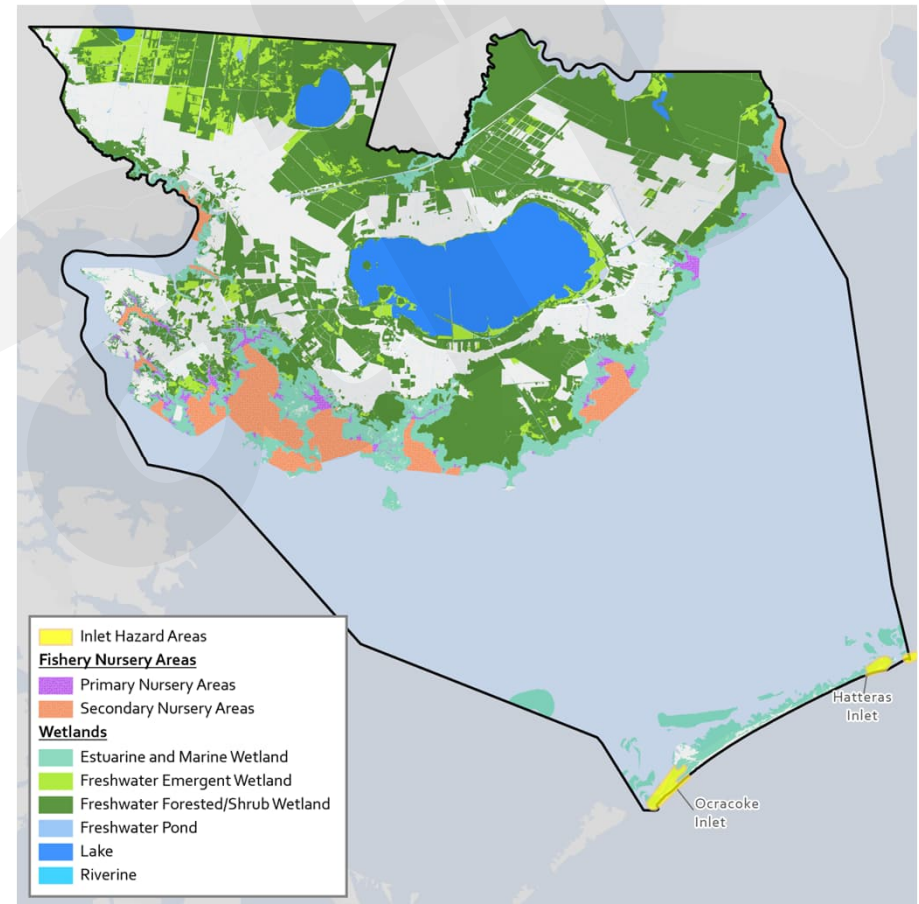
Fish nursery areas are only located on the Mainland. Primary and secondary nursery areas are located off the Pungo River and up Slade Creek, Spencer Bay, Germantown Bay, Rose Bay and up Rose Bay Canal, Deep Bay, Shell Bay, Eastard Bay, Coffee Bay, Swanquarter Bay, Juniper Bay and up Hydeland Canal, Cunning Harbor Bay and up Phillips Canal on the eastern side of the Mainland within the Pamlico Sound. On the western side of the Mainland within the Pamlico Sound, primary and secondary nursery areas are located in Douglas Bay, Wystocking Bay and up Gray Ditch, Waupopin Canal, Long Shoal River, and Pains Bay.

Coastal and Non-Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands are any marsh in the 20 coastal counties (including Mainland and Ocracoke) that regularly or occasionally floods by lunar or wind tides and include specific plant species. There are many types of coastal wetlands in Hyde County including salt marshes, maritime swamp forests, and estuarine shrub/scrubs, among others. They protect against flooding, help maintain water quality, provide habitat to wildlife, and serve as part of the estuarine system.

Non-coastal wetlands can also be found in the County. These types of wetlands are located more inland and include pocosin wetlands, freshwater marches, swamp forests and hardwood flats. Specifically, non-coastal wetlands can be found in Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, and Gull Rock Game Lands. Although development pressure in the County is limited, these areas are most at risk of shoreline erosion, storm surge, and water quality issues.

Fishery Nursery Areas & Wetlands in Hyde County



Data from National Wetlands Inventory, NC Department of Environmental Quality, NC Division of Coastal Management

Fragile Areas and Areas of Environmental Concern



Natural and Cultural Resource Areas

Protected Lands or Managed Areas are areas dedicated to conservation and open space-based uses that are protected from development by regulation or by ownership by governments or non-profit organizations. Hyde County has one of the highest percentages of protected lands in the State of North Carolina which presents opportunities for both ecotourism and conservation. Natural Heritage Areas are areas containing ecologically significant natural communities or rare species, as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program



Swans at Mattamuskeet Refuge
Source: Michelle Moorman/USFWS



Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge
Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Ocracoke Lighthouse
Source: Miller Taylor

Natural Heritage Areas on Ocracoke:

- Hatteras Inlet Bird Nesting Islands
- Ocracoke Inlet Bird Nesting Islands
- Ocracoke Island Central Section
- Ocracoke Island Eastern End
- Ocracoke Island Western End - Sand Flats
- Springer's Point

Protected Lands on Ocracoke:

- Big Foot Island
- Cape Hatteras National Seashore
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust - Ocracoke Preservation Society Preserve
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust - Springers Point Preserve
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Preserve
- Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- USFWS Critical Habitat - Piping Plover
- Hatteras Inlet Islands Registered Heritage Area
- Ocracoke Island (Central Section) Registered Heritage Area
- Ocracoke Island (Eastern End) Registered Heritage Area
- Ocracoke Island (Western End Sand Flats) Registered Heritage Area

Natural Heritage Areas on the Mainland:

- Alligator River/Swan Creek Lake Swamp Forest
- Back Landing Bay
- Gibbs Point Marsh
- Harvester Road Tall Pocosin
- Long Point and Wysocking Bay Marshes
- Long Shoal River Marshes and Pocosins
- Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
- New Lake Fork Pocosin and New Lake
- Pungo Lake Natural Areas
- Pungo River Preserve
- Roper Island
- Scranton Hardwood Forest
- Sophie Island Natural Area
- Swanquarter/Gull Rock Wetlands
- Upper Alligator River Marshes and Forests
- Upper Pungo River Wetlands

Protected Lands on the Mainland:

(Easements not listed)

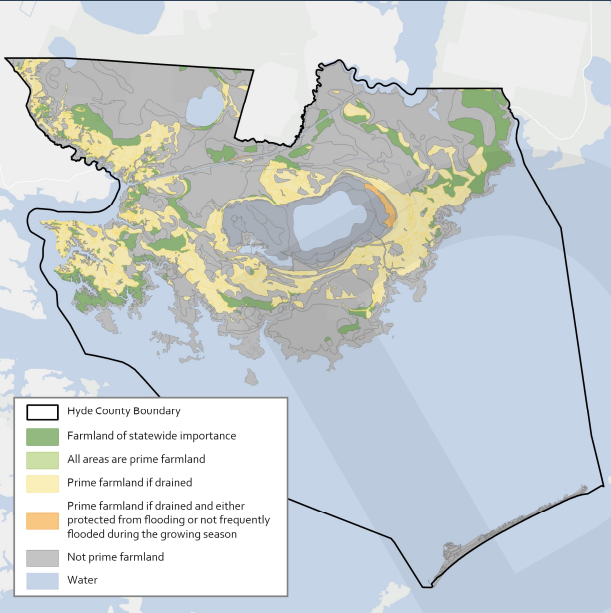
- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
- Alligator River Preserve
- Dare County Air Force Range
- Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge Coastal Reserve
- Gull Rock Game Land
- Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) Engelhard Access Area
- NC WRC Outfall Canal Access Area
- NC WRC Rose Bay Access Area
- NC WRC Wharf Marina Access Area
- Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
- Pungo River Game Land
- Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge
- Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge - Swanquarter Wilderness
- Upper Alligator River Preserve
- Salyer's Ridge Natural Area - National Natural Landmark
- NC Division of Mitigation Services Easement
- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Registered Heritage Area
- Alligator River Swamp Forest Registered Heritage Area
- Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge Coastal Reserve Dedicated Nature Preserve
- Gull Rock Game Land Dedicated Nature Preserve
- Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Registered Heritage Area
- Pantego Swamp and Pocosins Registered Heritage Area
- Pungo Lake Registered Heritage Area
- Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge Registered Heritage Area

Soil Characteristics



Farmland

Roughly 11% of Hyde County’s land area is currently farmable, with the majority of that farmland being of statewide importance. Farmland of statewide importance means that these areas have high-quality soil and characteristics suitable for cultivating crops, but unlike areas designated as prime farmland, it has limitations that would require special management. These areas are designated by the state of North Carolina in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA.



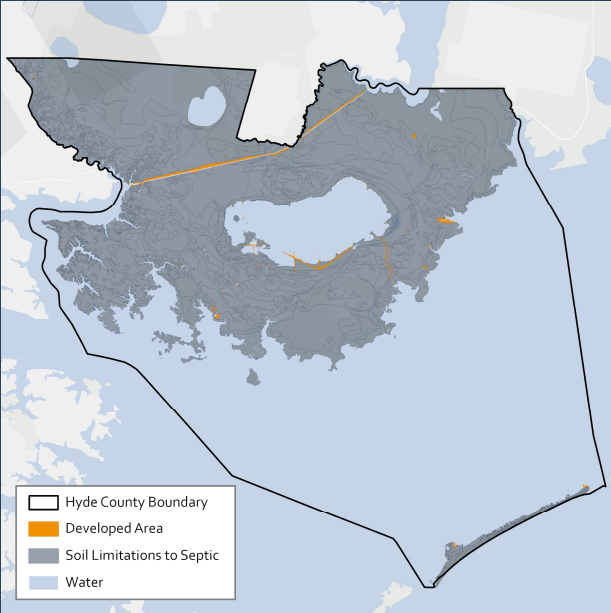
Nearly 25% of the total land area of the County would be considered prime farmland if it were drained while 65% of the land is not considered prime farmland.

Data from USDA-NRCS

Soil and Septic Limitations

The coastal nature of Hyde County creates limitations for septic systems. The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA identifies more than 40 different soil types across the Mainland and Ocracoke. All soil types in Hyde County present some form of limitation to a conventional septic system due to a combination of factors such as slow water movement, flooding, short depth to saturated zone, limited filtering capacity, seepage concerns, and subsidence.

These limitations can increase the potential for septic system failure in low-lying and flood prone areas. Consideration of soil conditions is important to protecting surface waters and groundwater resources.



Data from USDA-NRCS

Water Quality

Basin-wide Water Quality

River basins are the areas of land where all precipitation and runoff flow downhill into a river and its tributaries which is funneled into a single outlet like a lake or ocean. Evaluating upstream conditions is crucial for understanding the health of waterways in Hyde County. Hyde County is located within the Tar-Pamlico and Pasquotank river basins.

Tar-Pamlico Basin

The Tar River flows southeast from north central North Carolina until it empties into the Pamlico Sound, forming the Tar-Pamlico Basin. According to the 2014 Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Water Resources Management Plan, there is an average reduction in estimated nitrogen loss from cropland and pastureland since 2002. Despite the progress, water quality standards in the Pamlico River Estuary are not met.

The Pamlico River Subbasin and Pamlico Sound Subbasin directly influence the county's waters. In the Pamlico River Subbasin, water quality is mostly affected by nutrient loading, or when too many nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus enter water bodies, which can cause a Chlorophyll *a* impairment. A Chlorophyll *a* impairment refers to waterbodies experiencing excess algae or bacterial growth which degrades the water quality. These conditions are more likely to happen in the subbasin under low flow conditions.

The water quality concerns in the Pamlico Sound Subbasin primarily involve shellfish harvesting and recreational uses. Most of the impaired waters in the subbasin that are considered unhealthy for shellfish harvesting are located in areas where harvesting is already not allowed.

Pasquotank Basin

The Pasquotank Basin is located in the northeastern coastal plain and is North Carolina's largest freshwater estuary. The northeastern corner of Hyde County is located in the Pasquotank Basin, the Albemarle Subbasin, and more specifically, the Gum Neck-Alligator River Watershed.

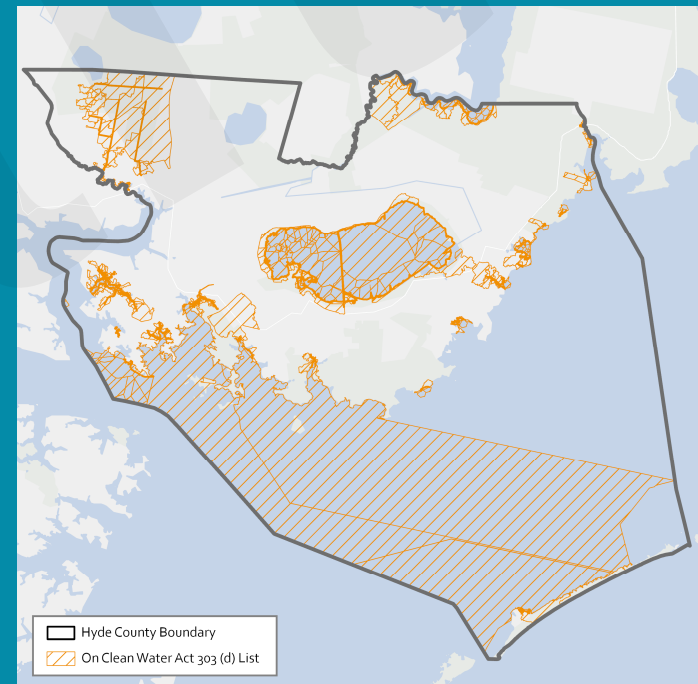
According to the 2021 *Pasquotank River Basin Water Resources Plan*, "there are no ambient monitoring stations, NPDES wastewater, non-discharge, or animal operation permits in [the Gum Neck-Alligator River] watershed."



Impaired Waterways in Hyde County

Under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d)

- Alligator River
- Becky Creek (Becky Branch)
- Berrys Bay
- Cedar Creek
- Far Creek
- Germantown Bay
- Jarvis Creek
- Jones Creek
- Juniper Bay
- Lake Mattamuskeet
- Log Creek
- Lone Tree Creek
- Long Creek
- Long Shoal River
- Middle Town Creek
- Midgett Creek
- Neal Creek
- Northwest Creek
- Old Field Creek
- Otter Creek
- Oyster Creek
- Pamlico River
- Pamlico Sound
- Pungo River
- Raffing Creek
- Rose Bay
- Rose Bay Creek
- Sage Bay
- Shingle Creek
- Slade Creek
- Swanquarter Bay
- Waupopin Creek
- Wysocking Bay
- Deep Creek
- Golden Creek
- Jordan Creek
- Lake Canal
- Pantego Creek
- UT Canal
- West Thorofare Bay



Data from NC Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality



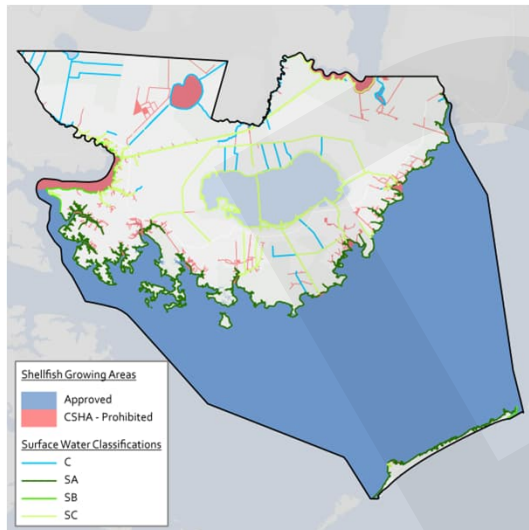
Surface Waters

Surface waters within North Carolina are designated with a primary classification by the Division of Water Resources. Located on the Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula, Hyde County is within the Tar-Pamlico basin.

Class C Surface waters are those that are used for agriculture, fish and wildlife survival, and secondary contact recreation (wading, boating, etc.). Class SA waters are tidal salt waters that are used for shell fishing for marketing purposes.

Class SC waters are for primary nursery areas for fish and secondary contact recreation and Class SB waters allow primary contact recreation (swimming, skiing, etc.). The map in the lower left shows the locations of these different surface water classifications as well as approved and prohibited shellfishing areas.

Shellfish Growing Areas & Surface Water Classifications



Data from NC Department of Environmental Quality

Existing Conditions & Key Issues

Trends in Shellfishing Water Conditions

The Division of Marine Fisheries Sanitary Surveys report environmental and pollution factors to determine the health of shellfish growing areas.

The Report of Sanitary Survey for the G-3 and G-4 growing areas (March 2019 through November 2024) includes areas off the Mainland Coast in the Pamlico Sound, specifically the Swanquarter and Wysocking Bay Areas. Pollution sources for this area include the Swanquarter Wastewater Treatment Plant and marina facilities. Potential pollution sources also include wildlife from the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County Gamelands, Gull Rock Gamelands as well as domestic animals nearby farms. While there have been few changes in the pollution sources, bacteriological water quality is declining in upper Rose Bay and upper Wysocking Bay. As of 2024, all restricted waters in the G-3 growing area were reclassified from Restricted to Prohibited.

The Report of Sanitary Survey for the G-5 growing area (March 2019 through November 2024) includes areas of the Northern Pamlico Sound water bodies near Engelhard. Pollution sources for this area include the Engelhard Wastewater Treatment Plant, marina facilities, the US Air Force Bombing Range near the Long Shoal River, and stormwater runoff from nearby farms, subdivisions, and campsites. Potential pollution sources also include wildlife from Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Gull Rock Gamelands as well as domestic farm animals on nearby properties. As of 2024, there were ongoing challenges for stormwater and wastewater management near Prohibited shellfishing waters, but standards for safe shellfishing were met at that time.

The Report of Sanitary Survey for the F-7 growing area (March 2011 through April 2016) includes the southern areas of the Pamlico Sound. This area is not impacted by pollution sources and all standards were met for safe shellfishing at the time this report was published. However, it was noted that emergency closures of shellfishing areas may occur following extreme rainfall events.

The Report of Sanitary Survey for the G-8 growing area (March 2015 through November 2019) includes areas of the Pungo River. Pollution sources include the wastewater treatment facilities in neighboring Carteret County, marina facilities, campsites and nearby horse farms. At the time of this report, there were no changes to the bacteriological water quality or pollution source impacts resulting in no change to the shellfish growing classification area.

The Report of Sanitary Survey for the G-6 growing area (October 2013 through January 2019) includes the waters surrounding Ocracoke. Pollution sources include marina facilities and general dockage areas, runoff from impervious surfaces, onsite wastewater systems, and ferry landings. At the time of this report, there were no changes to the bacteriological water quality or pollution source impacts resulting in an 'Approved' shellfish growing area classification.

Hyde County Horizons 2040



Natural Hazards & Vulnerability

Hyde County is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards due to its coastal setting. This sub-section largely discusses how water via flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge impact Hyde County and its future land use decisions.

Natural Hazards

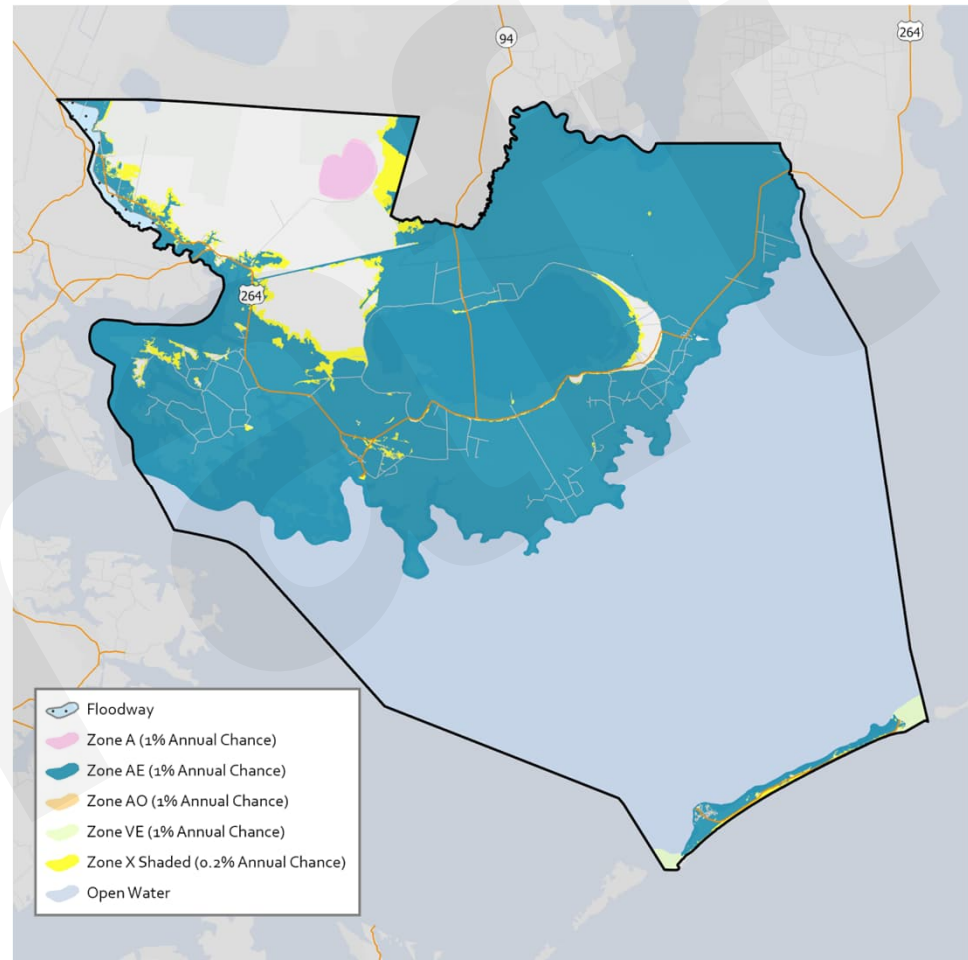
Flooding

A floodplain is an area of land that can be inundated by water during a flood. Approximately 76% of Hyde County's land area falls within the special flood hazard area, which means that most of the county has a 1% annual chance of experiencing flooding or a 26% chance of experiencing flooding during a 30-year mortgage. FEMA breaks down the floodplain into the following zones:

- Floodway: highest-risk part of the floodplain where development is very strictly limited to prevent worsening problems.
- Zone A (1% annual chance): areas within the 100-year floodplain. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depth or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
- Zone AE (1% annual chance): areas within the 100-year floodplain. Base Flood Elevation is shown.
- Zone AO (1% annual chance): areas subject to inundation by 1-percent-annual-chance shallow flooding, where average depths are between one and three feet.
- Zone VE (1% annual chance): coastal areas subject to inundation within 100-year-floodplain plus intense, storm-driven wave hazards.
- Zone X Shaded (0.2% Annual Chance) Areas of moderate flood hazard between the 100-year and 500-year floodplain.

The following pages show the floodplains in each study area.

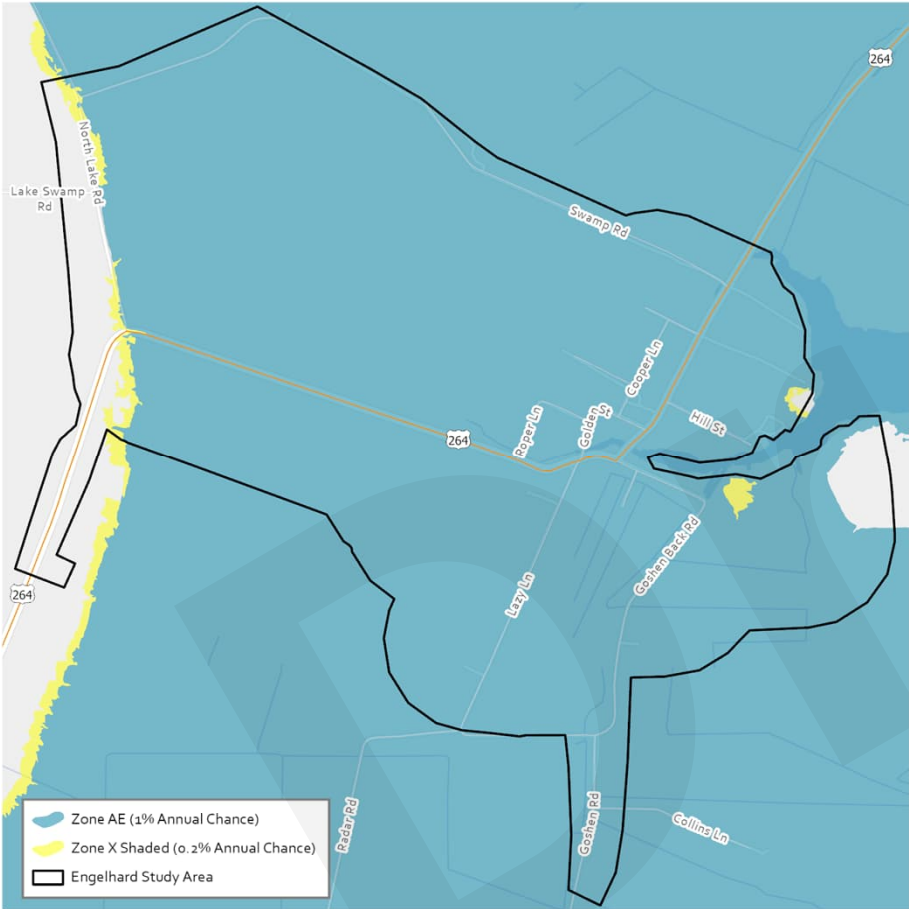
Map of Hyde County's Floodplains



Data from US Federal Emergency Management Agency

Base flood elevation: predicted water level rise during a 100-year flood.

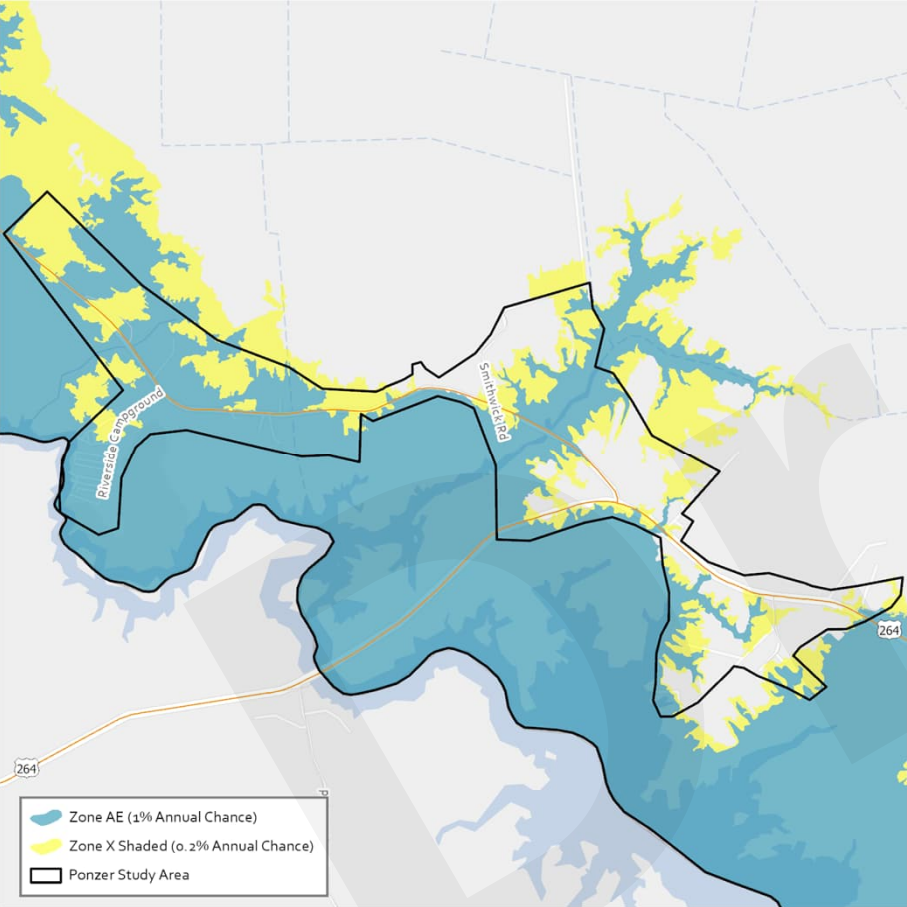
Engelhard - 92% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



Fairfield - 97% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



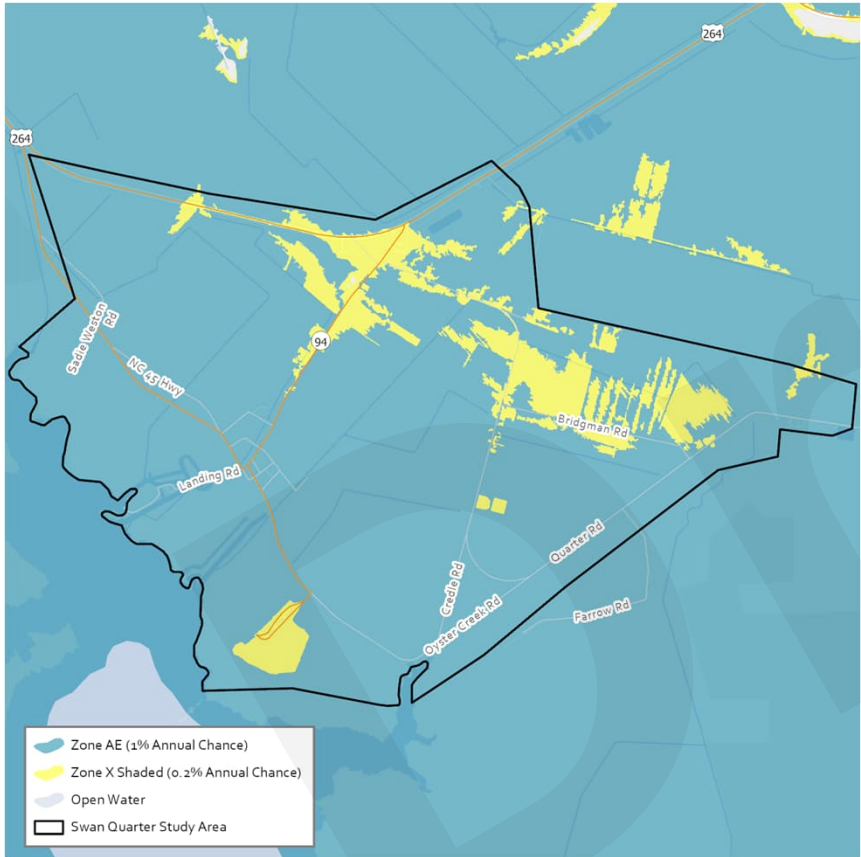
Ponzer - 47% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



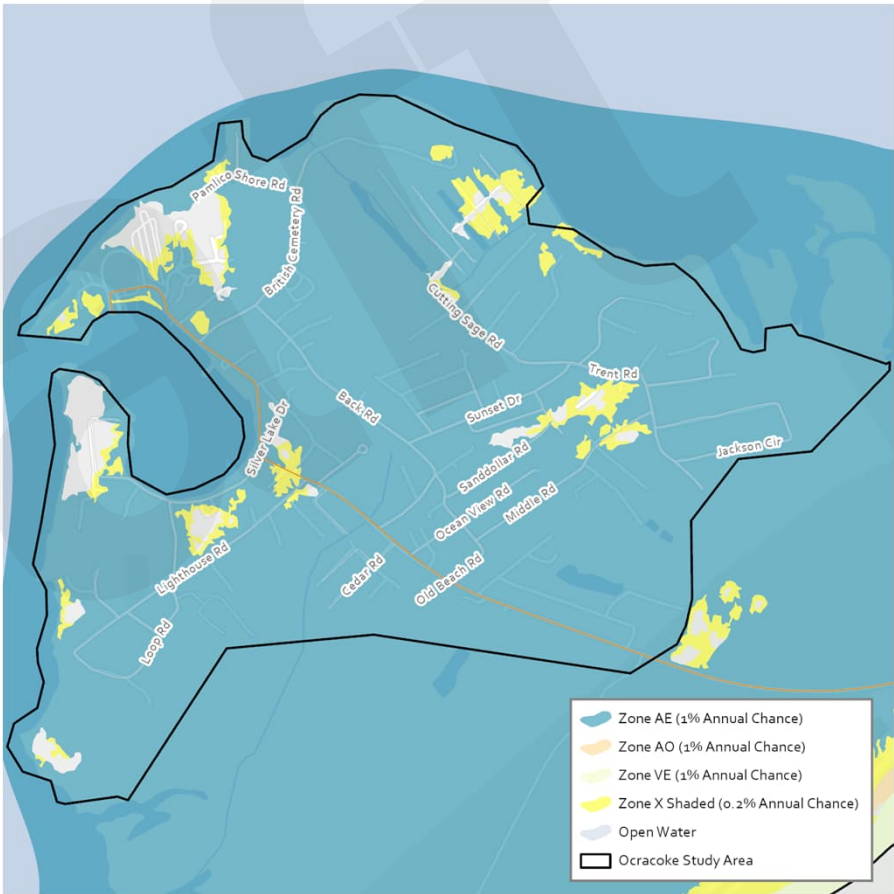
Scranton - 92% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



Swan Quarter - 89% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



Ocracoke - 92% land area in the Special Flood Hazard Area



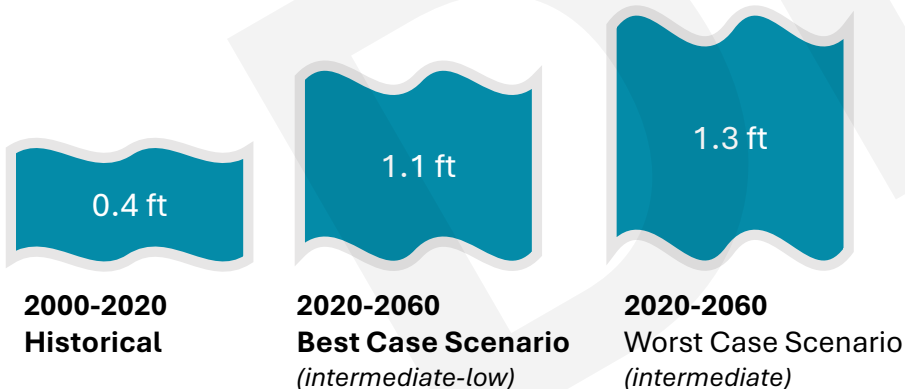
Sea Level Rise

Mainland Hyde County

Sea level rise is a serious concern in Hyde County because much of the area is very low-lying and close to the coast. Higher water levels are already pushing saltwater inland, which affects farming, fishing, and everyday life for residents. As the ocean continues to rise, flooding is expected to become more frequent and more severe. Data from NOAA shows that even small increases can have big impacts: about 105 square miles of the mainland could be flooded with just 1 foot of sea level rise, growing to over 230 square miles at 1.5 feet, 332 square miles at 2 feet, and nearly 450 square miles at 3 feet.

Impacts are also noticeable in each study area—for example, Swan Quarter could see flooded land increase from 0.16 square miles at 1 foot to more than 5 square miles at 3 feet. Recent trends show that sea levels in Hyde County have already risen about 0.4 feet since 2000 and could rise another 1.1 to 1.3 feet by 2060, which would make these changes happen even faster. Overall, these patterns show that even gradual sea level rise can lead to major land loss and challenges for people living in mainland Hyde County.

Expected Sea Level Rise in Hyde County



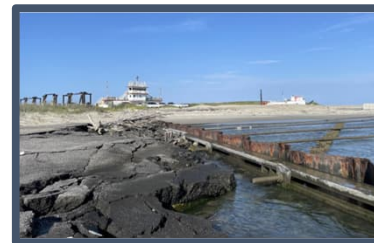
Source: NC Resilience Exchange, NOAA 2022 Sea Level Rise

Ocracoke

Sea level rise is a huge threat to life on Ocracoke Island. Barrier islands, like Ocracoke, are naturally meant to shift and change shape over time as waves and wind move sand across them. However, rising sea levels are speeding up this process, leading to more frequent flooding and erosion. Along the Outer Banks, higher water levels and stronger storms are already causing ocean water to push farther inland, damaging beaches, homes, and infrastructure. On Ocracoke, this can be seen along N.C. Highway 12, the island's main road, which is often flooded or washed over during storms and high tides.

In addition to storm-related flooding, sea level rise is also causing more frequent “sunny day flooding,” where high tides alone are enough to flood low-lying areas even without a storm. This type of flooding is becoming more common as water levels rise and is a growing concern for daily life, transportation, and infrastructure on the island.

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows that even small increases in sea level can have noticeable impacts—about 0.18 square miles of the island could be affected with 1 foot of sea level rise, growing to nearly 0.91 square miles at 3 feet.



Deteriorated ferry infrastructure serving the connection between Ocracoke and Hatteras Island.
Source: Michael Flynn/National Park Service



Superintendent David Hallac standing on a damaged stretch of NC-12 after Hurricane Dorian. Source: NPS

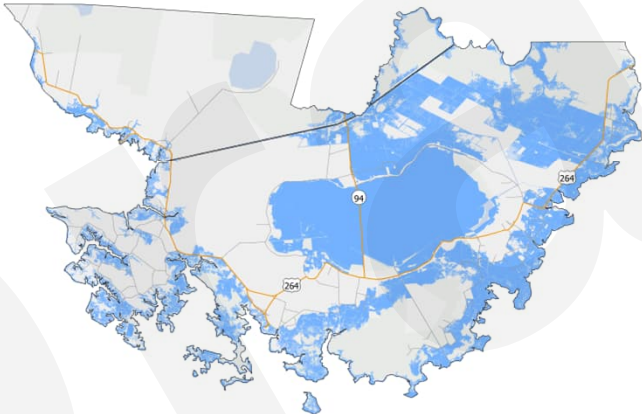
Mainland Hyde County Sea Level Rise

16% of land area covered



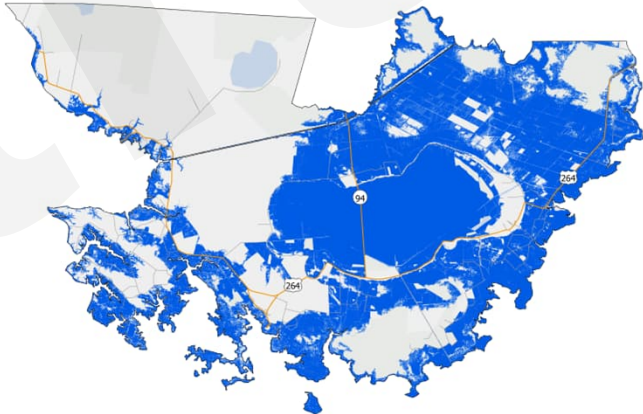
1ft SLR

34% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

49% of land area covered



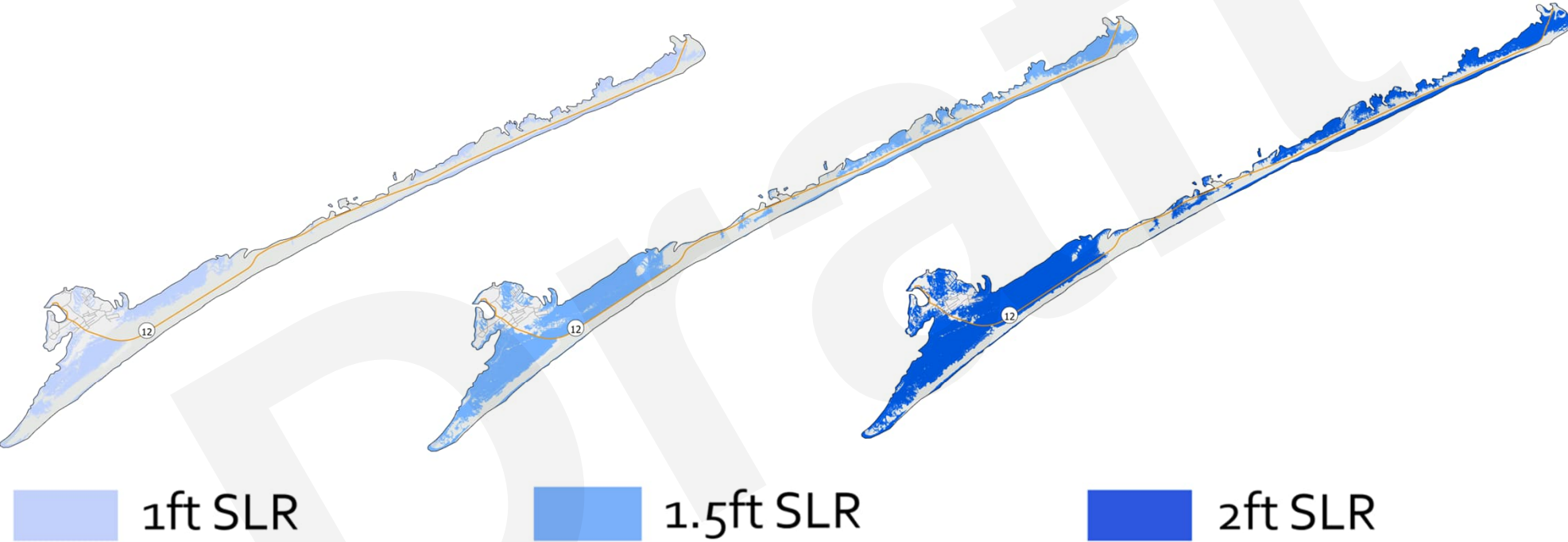
2ft SLR

Ocracoke Sea Level Rise

32% of land area covered

51% of land area covered

63% of land area covered



Ocracoke Study Area Sea Level Rise

17% of land area covered



1ft SLR

32% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

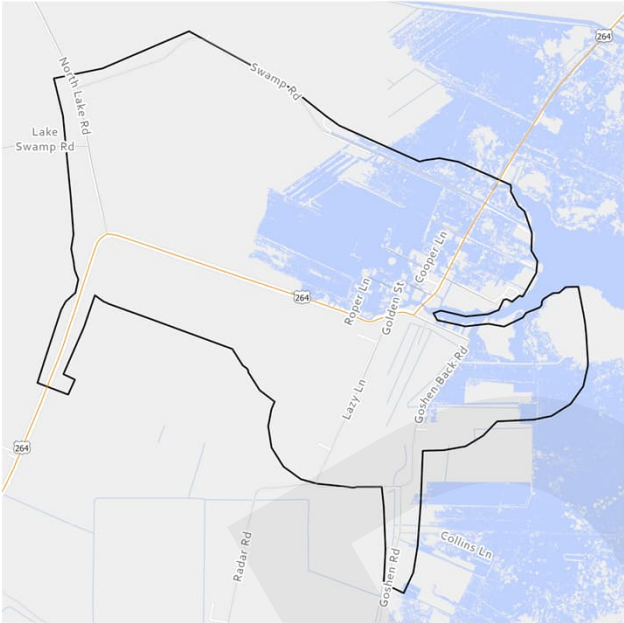
56% of land area covered



2ft SLR

Engelhard Sea Level Rise

22% of land area covered



1ft SLR

66% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

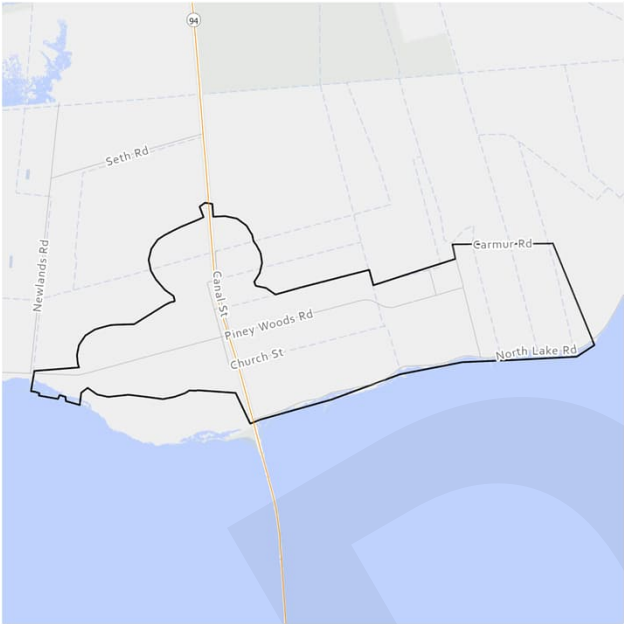
82% of land area covered



2ft SLR

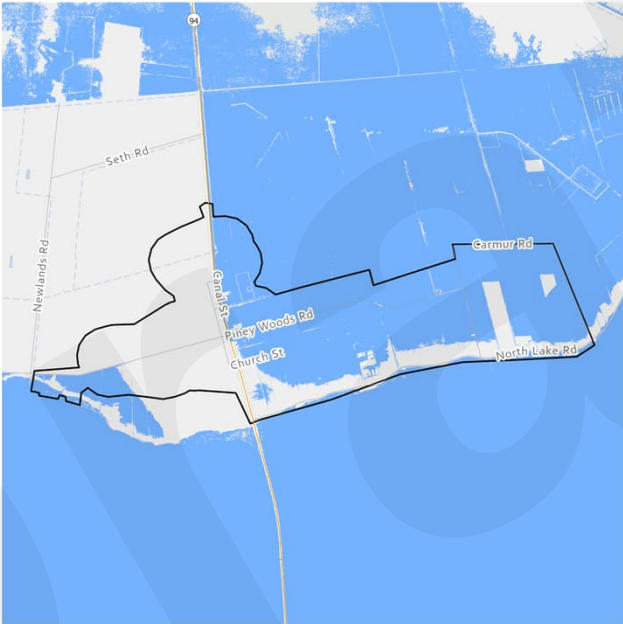
Fairfield Sea Level Rise

2% of land area covered



1ft SLR

59% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

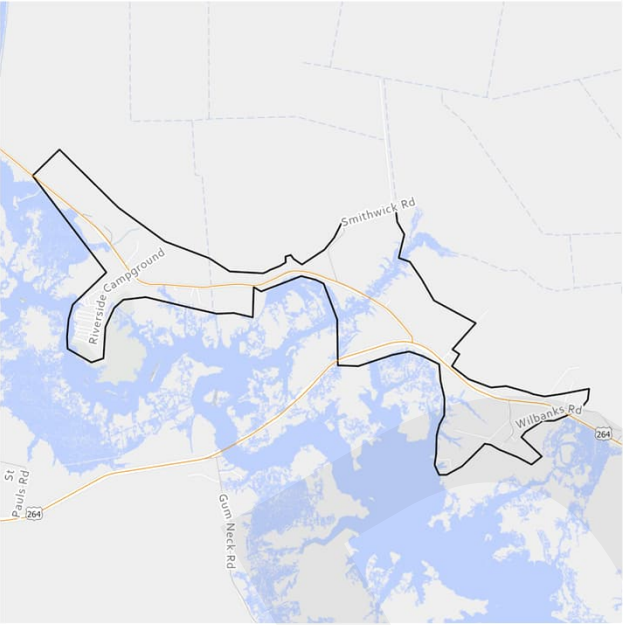
76% of land area covered



2ft SLR

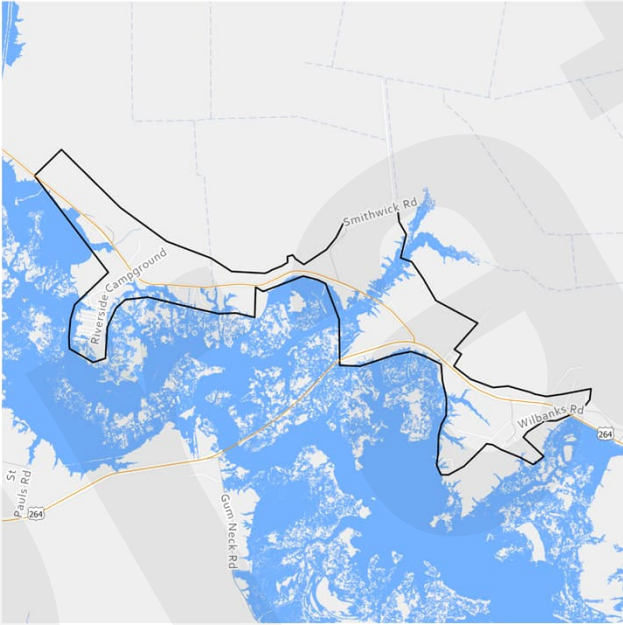
Ponzer Sea Level Rise

8% of land area covered



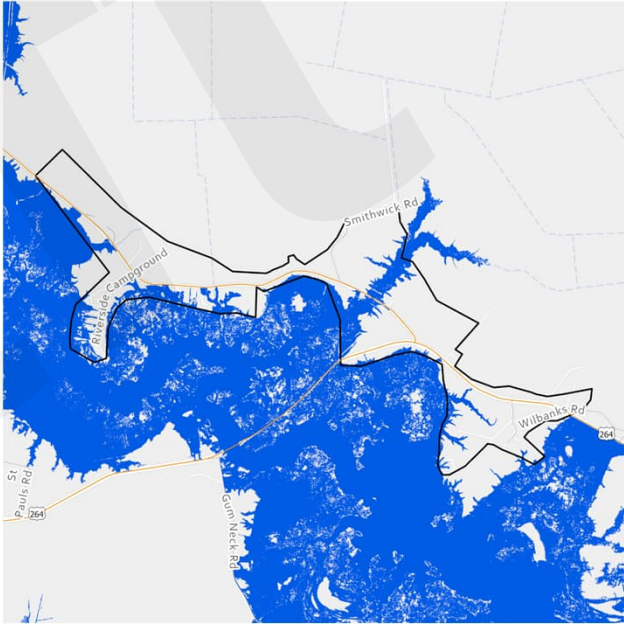
1ft SLR

13% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

17% of land area covered



2ft SLR

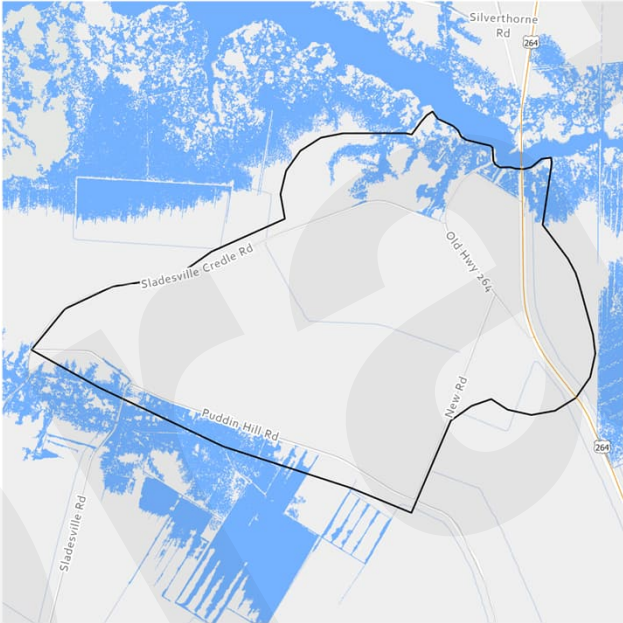
Scranton Sea Level Rise

1% of land area covered



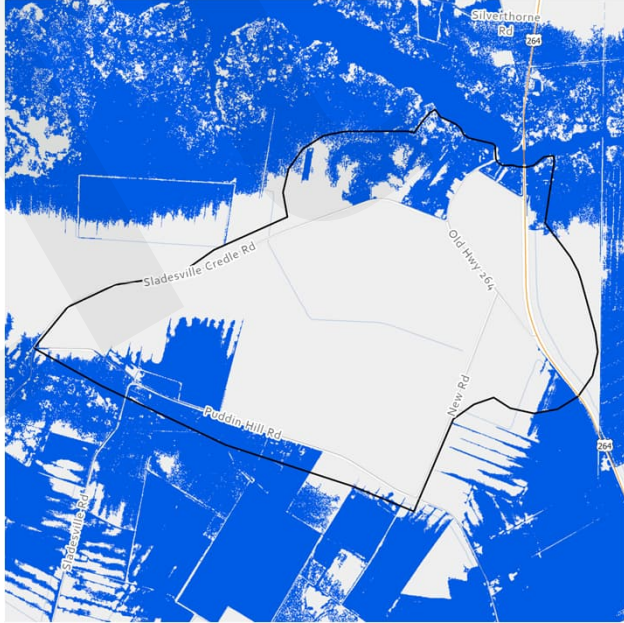
1ft SLR

8% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

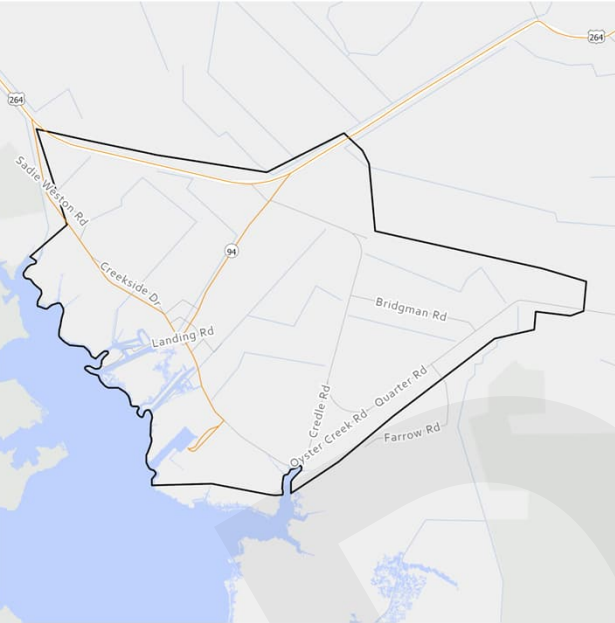
19% of land area covered



2ft SLR

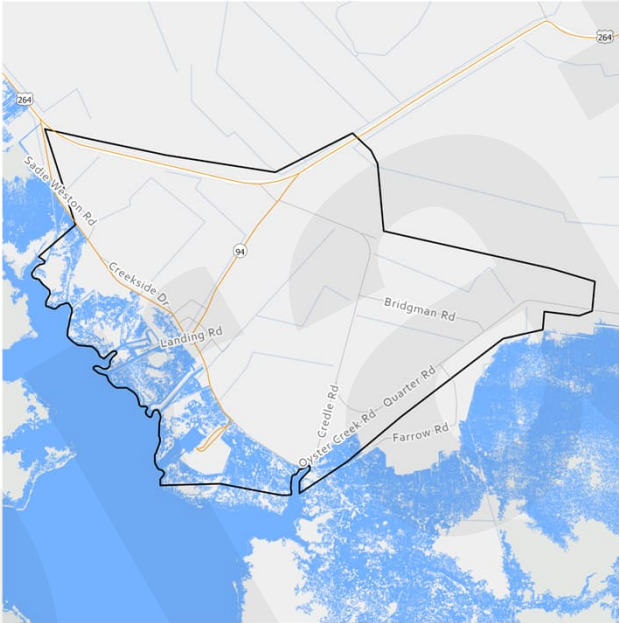
Swan Quarter Sea Level Rise

2% of land area covered



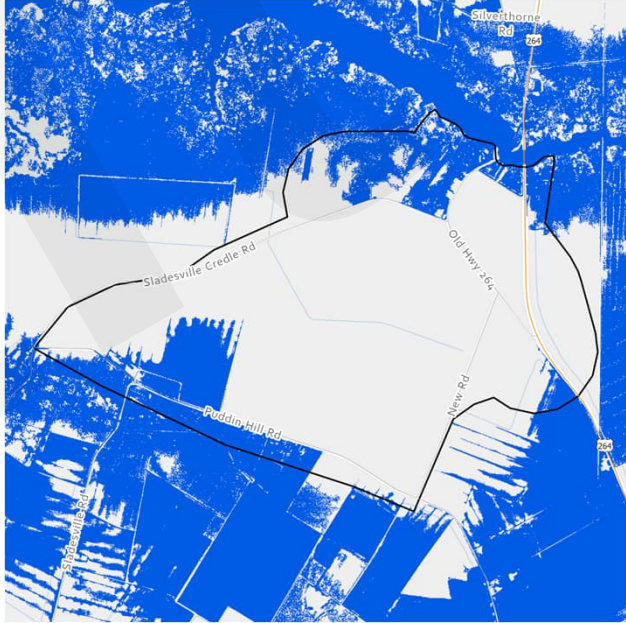
1ft SLR

11% of land area covered



1.5ft SLR

23% of land area covered



2ft SLR

Storm Surge

Storm surge—the abnormal rise of seawater driven ashore by the powerful winds of hurricanes and tropical storms—poses a persistent threat to Hyde County. Between 2000 and 2025, the County experienced 28 hurricanes, tropical storms, and storm surge events. In 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 2 hurricane, inundated Ocracoke with 4–7 feet of storm surge, trapping residents in their attics and forcing rescues by boat and helicopter.

NOAA's National Storm Surge Hazard Maps assess storm-surge flood risk using the SLOSH (Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) Maximum of Maximums (MOMs) model. The output depicts near worst-case flooding extents based on ideal hurricane conditions. During a Category 1 Hurricane, almost the entirety of Ocracoke is under 1-3 ft of water, and 59% of the mainland. Under a Category 3 Hurricane, 74% of the Mainland and Ocracoke are under 6 feet of water. By Category 5, the majority of mainland and the entirety of Ocracoke would be submerged under 9 feet of water.

The following pages shows the potential impact of Category 1 to Category 5 storm surge events.

Category 4 – Hurricane Hazel (1954)

Category 3 – Hurricane Donna (1960), Hurricane Fran (1996)

Category 2 – Hurricane Isabel (2003), Hurricane Dennis (1999)

Category 1 – Hurricane Floyd (1999), Hurricane Irene (2011), Hurricane Arthur (2014), Hurricane Dorian (2019), Hurricane Isaias (2020)

Data from US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Tom Pahl, left, and Bob Chestnut, post Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Source: Ocracoke Observer, P. Vankevich.



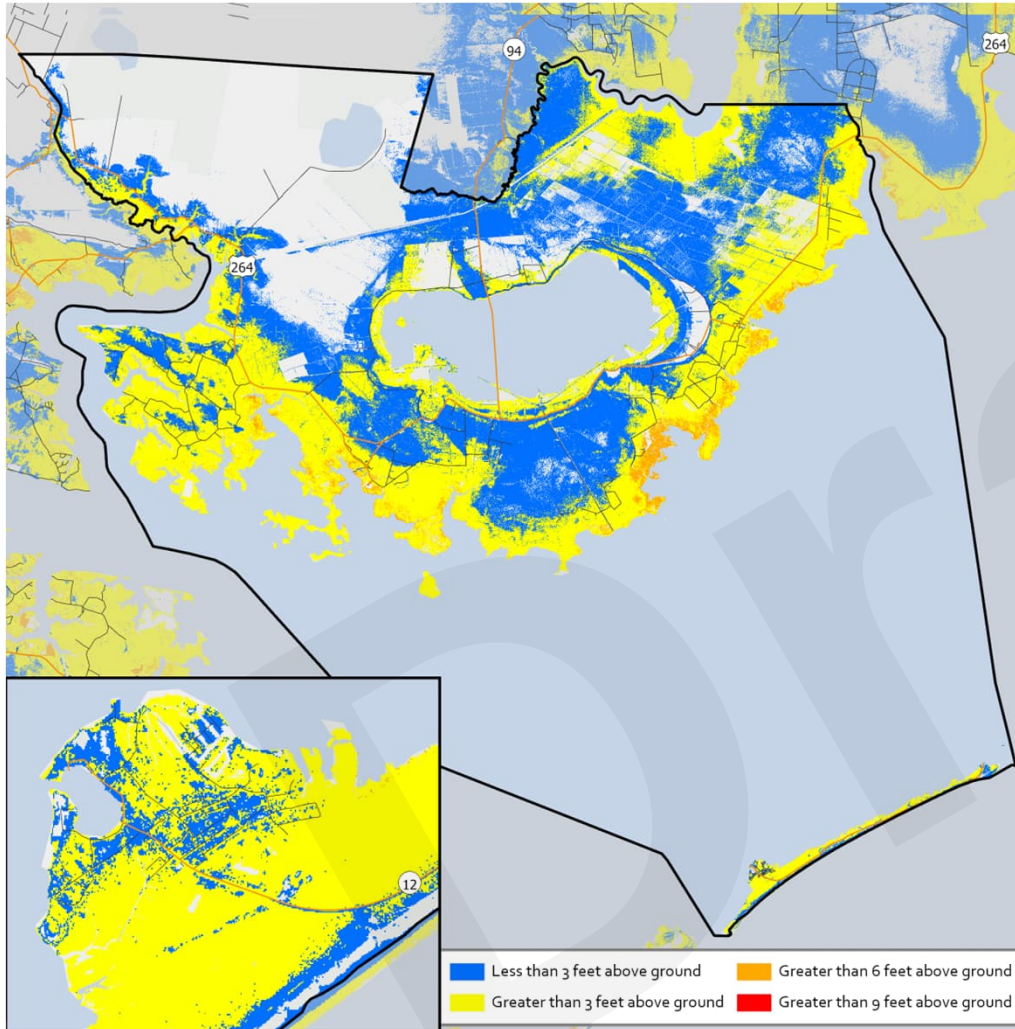
NC12 post Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Source: NCDOT



Ocracoke immediately following Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Source: Karen Rhodes



Category 1 Storm Surge



Percentage of Land Inundated

59% of Mainland

79% of Ocracoke (entire island)

88% of Ocracoke (town)

93% of Engelhard

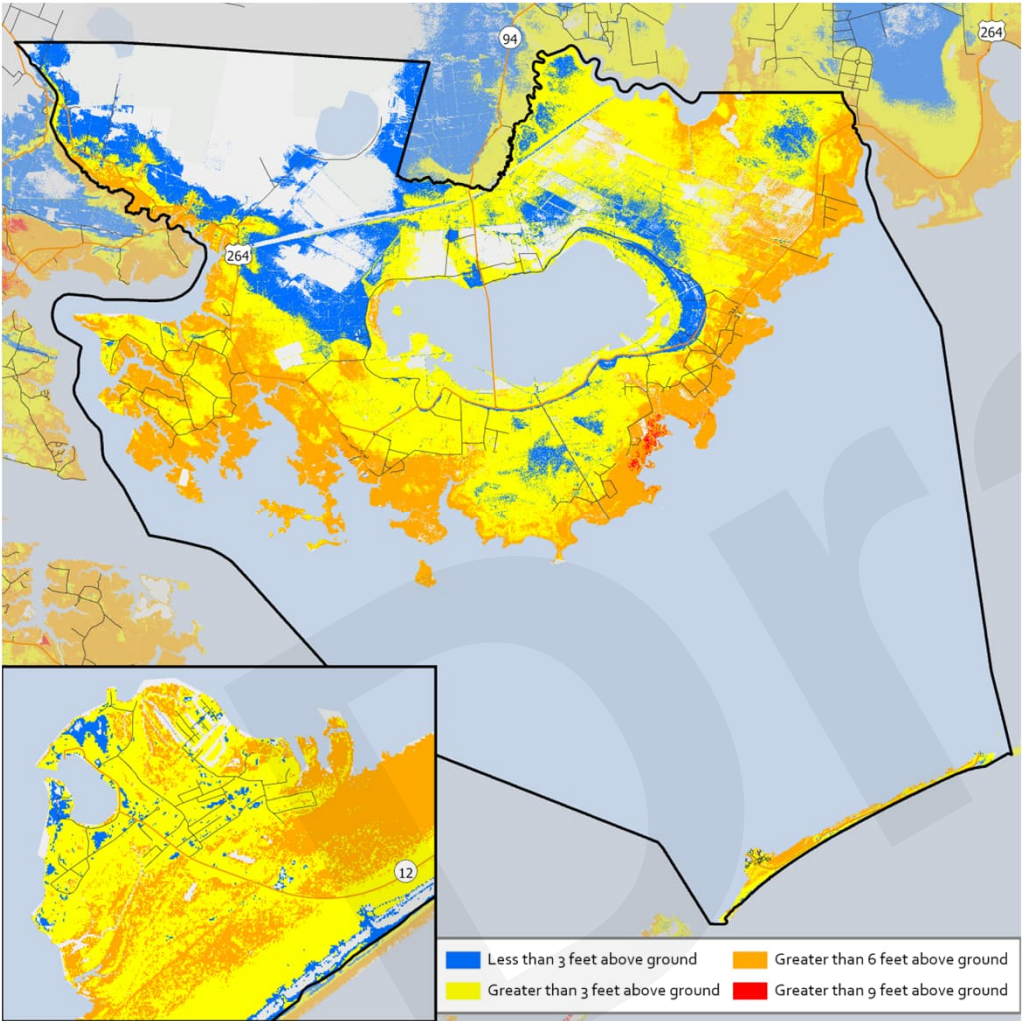
66% of Fairfield

91% of Ponzer

99% of Scranton

96% of Swan Quarter

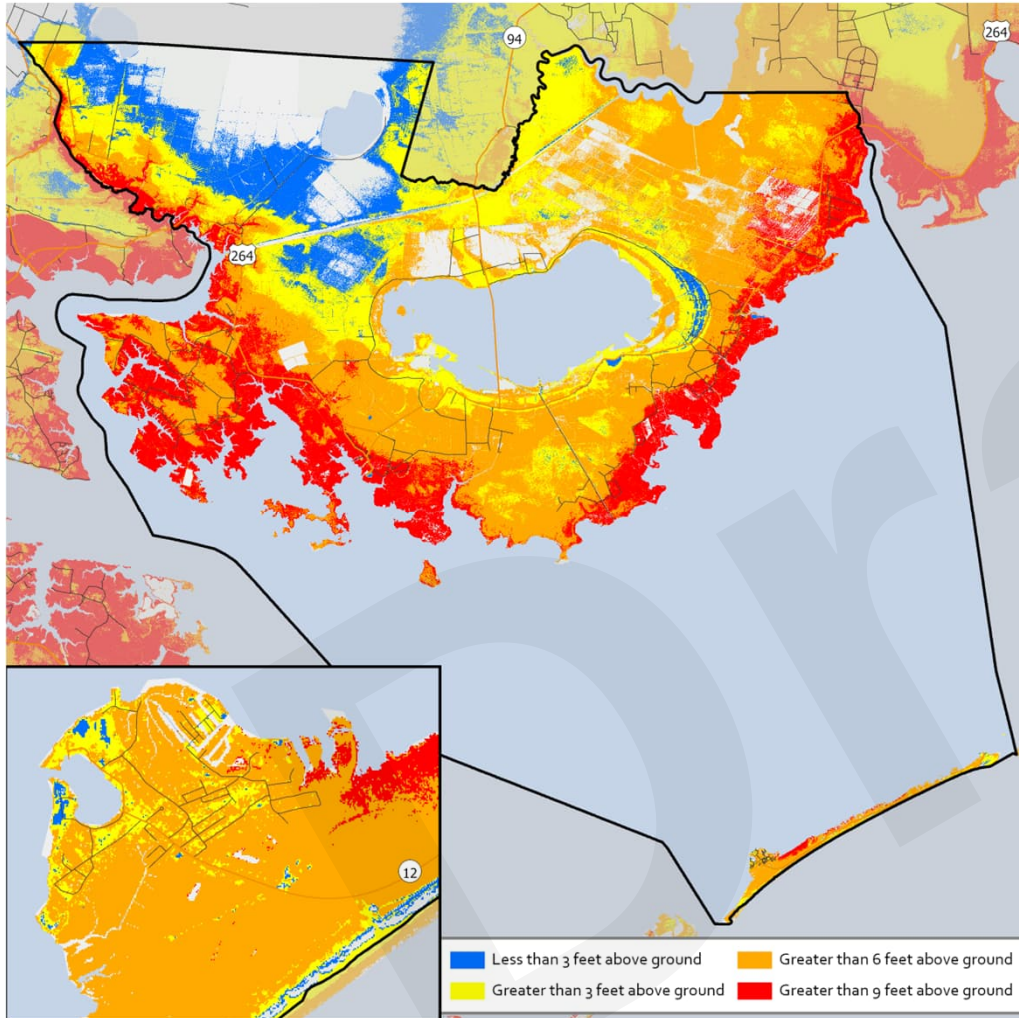
Category 2 Storm Surge



Percentage of Land Inundated

- 66% of Mainland
- 83% of Ocracoke (entire island)
- 90% of Ocracoke (town)
- 97% of Engelhard
- 66% of Fairfield
- 98% of Ponzer
- 100% of Scranton
- 97% of Swan Quarter

Category 3 Storm Surge



Percentage of Land Inundated

74% of Mainland

85% of Ocracoke (entire island)

90% of Ocracoke (town)

97% of Engelhard

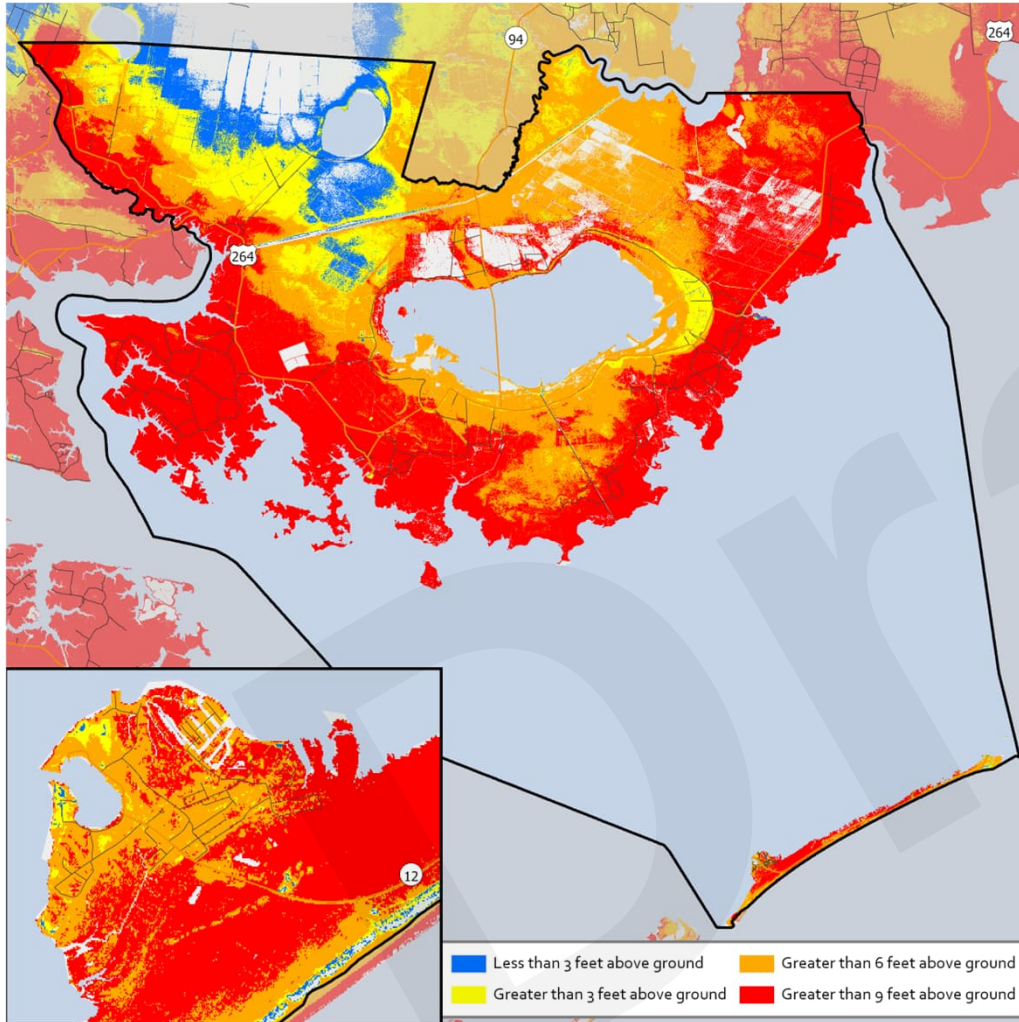
66% of Fairfield

98% of Ponzer

100% of Scranton

97% of Swan Quarter

Category 4 Storm Surge



Percentage of Land Inundated

79% of Mainland

87% of Ocracoke (entire island)

90% of Ocracoke (town)

98% of Engelhard

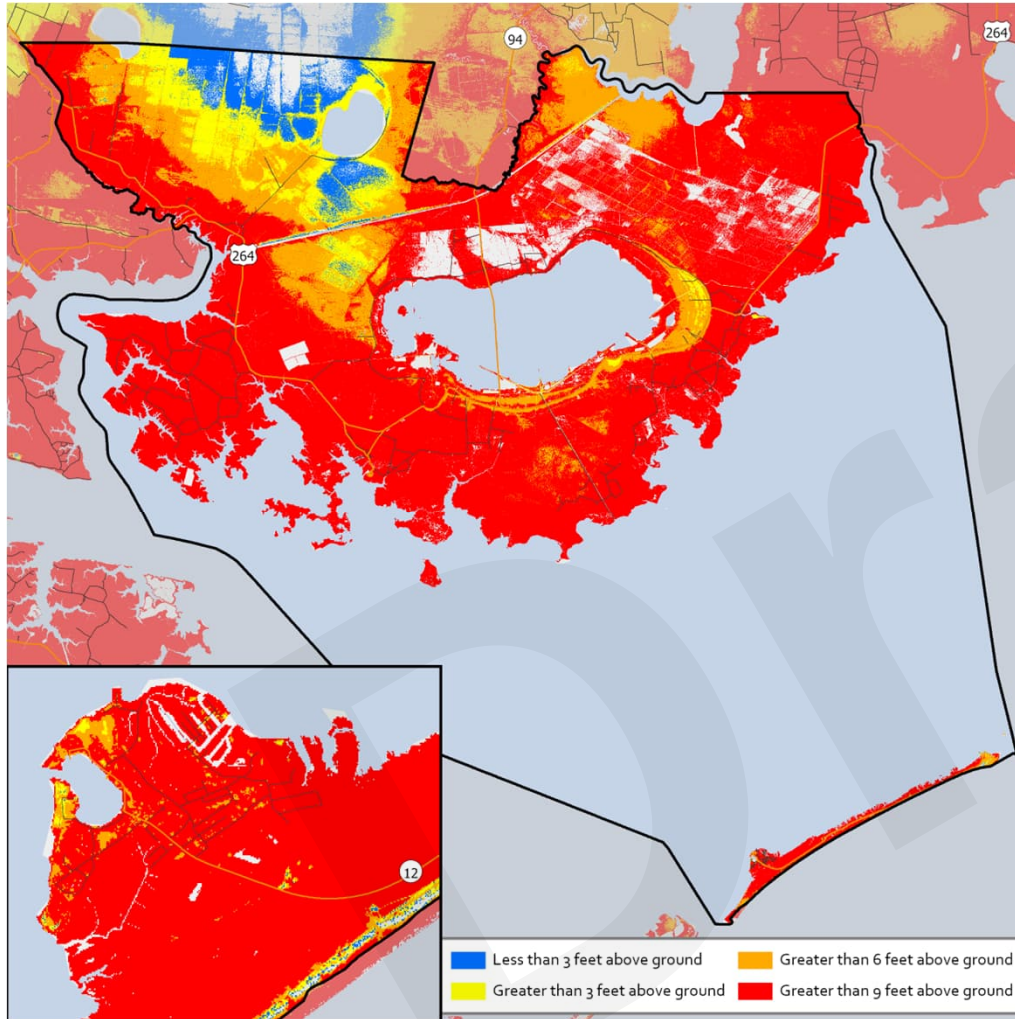
66% of Fairfield

98% of Ponzer

100% of Scranton

97% of Swan Quarter

Category 5 Storm Surge



Percentage of Land Inundated

81% of Mainland

88% of Ocracoke (entire island)

90% of Ocracoke (town)

98% of Engelhard

66% of Fairfield

98% of Ponzer

100% of Scranton

97% of Swan Quarter

Natural Hazards



High Winds

High winds often occur in coastal North Carolina and are typically linked to tropical storms and hurricanes. Damaging winds can harm utilities, trees, and buildings and lead to long-term infrastructure damage. Hyde County is within Wind Zone III according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. In other words, Wine Zone III means that manufactured and modular homes installed in the County must be able to withstand wind speeds of up to 110 miles per hour.

Strength	Number of storms	Storm(s) Name
Hurricane (typhoon)	13	Isabel (2003), Alex (2004), Charley (2004), Ophelia (2005), Irene (2011), Arthur (2014), Florence (2018), Dorian (2019)
Storm Surge/Tide	6	Cristobal (2008), Irene (2011), Sandy (2012), Erin (2025)
Tropical Storm	9	Gustav (2000), Ernest (2006), Hanna (2008), Earl (2010), Andrea (2012), Hermine (2016), Matthew (2016), Isias (2020), Debby (2024)

Shoreline Erosion

Shoreline erosion is the loss or long-term removal of land or sediment along a shoreline due to waves, currents, tides, or other storm impacts. Long-term coastal erosion rates have been severe in Hyde County, particularly along the northern portions of Hyde County's Atlantic coastline. The Northeastern NC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025) reports that Hyde County has 785.9 miles of estuarine shoreline with 478 structures that have shoreline access and 374 stabilization structures. Currently, NC 12 and power lines that serve the island are considered to be most vulnerable to shoreline erosion.



Source: Dylan Ray



Source: National Park Service

Based on historical shoreline erosion data, Hyde County has an average erosion rate of 3 feet per year



Source: Joy Crist

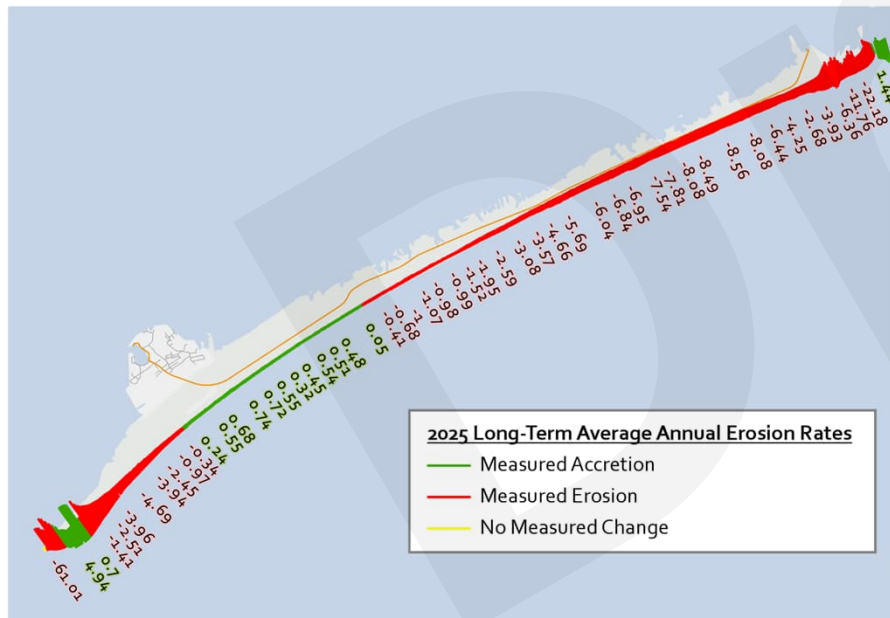
Natural Hazards



Shoreline Erosion

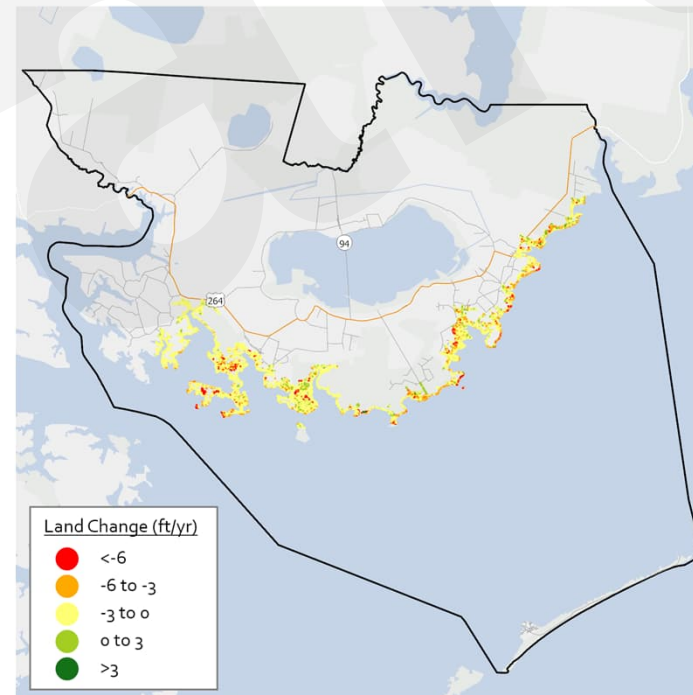
Ocracoke has roughly 16 miles of oceanfront shoreline, spanning from the Ocracoke Inlet to the Hatteras Inlet. According to the *North Carolina 2025 Oceanfront Setback Factors & Long-Term Average Annual Erosion Rate Update Study: Methods Report*, much of the shoreline has experienced measured erosion. Because most of the Ocracoke Shoreline is under federal protection by the National Park Service, erosion is not directly impacting private residential structures, however, it is causing the most significant damage to public infrastructure including NC-12 and power lines.

Ocracoke 2025 Annual Erosion Rate (ft)



The following map, based on data from the North Carolina Coastal Federation, shows how erosion is changing Mainland Hyde County's coastline. Land change hotspots are primarily located along the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge, between Hog Island Point and Bensons Point near the Gull Rock Game Land, and Long Point near Hillery's Cove.

Mainland Hyde County Erosion Rate (ft/yr)



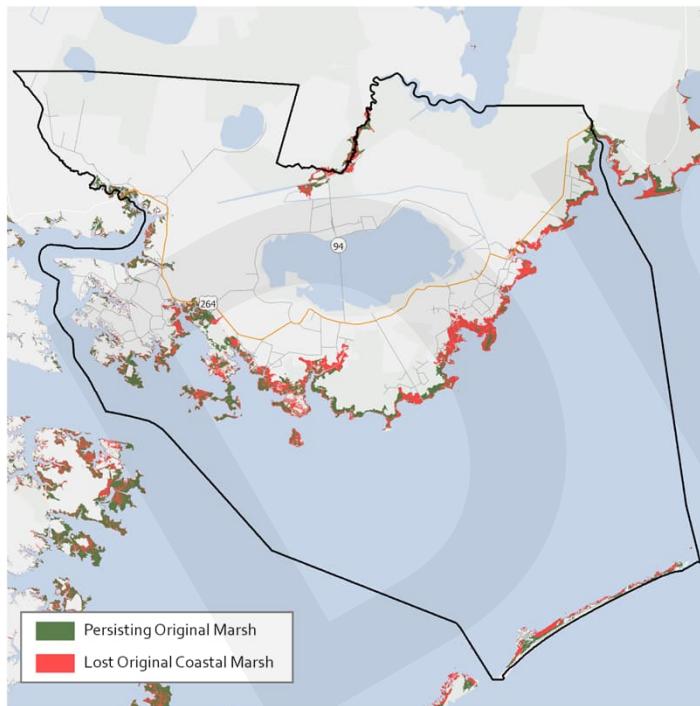
Natural Hazards



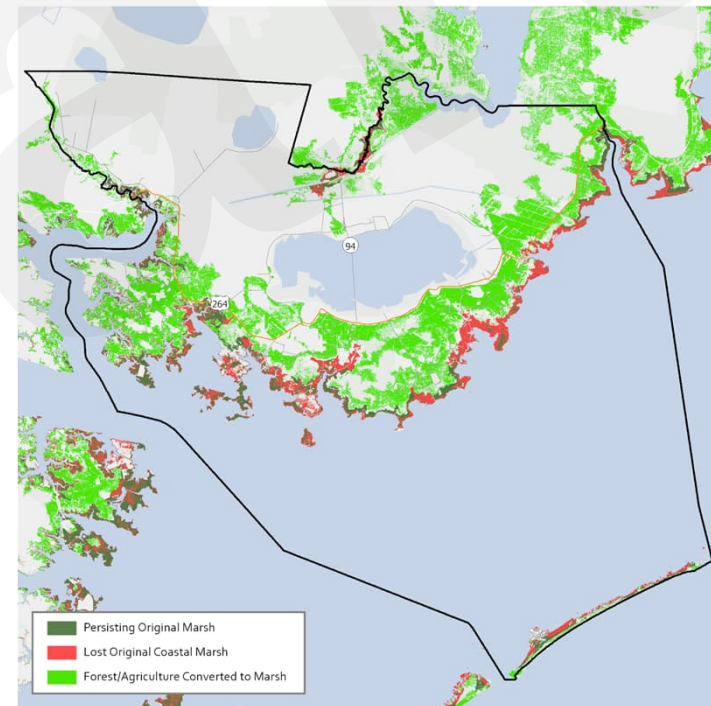
Changes in Coastal Marsh Coverage

Coastal marsh loss occurs when wetland vegetation dies due to natural processes or human activities. The map on the left below show areas of the County where original coastal march has been lost and where original marsh remains. The map on the right shows a projection into 2050 where forest/agricultural lands could be converted to marsh due to factors like sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion. This process can destroy crops and agricultural land that cannot tolerate saltwater and allows vegetation that can tolerate saltwater, such as coastal marsh vegetation, to thrive. This data was obtained from the North Carolina Coastal Federation's Salt Marsh Action Plan.

Current Marsh Loss as of 2025



2050 Projected Marsh Loss



Land Suitability Analysis

Methodology

Land in Hyde County is limited for development because much of the county is affected by flooding, coastal hazards, and conservation protections. About 76% of the county sits in the 100-year floodplain, meaning it has a high risk of flooding during major rain events. Much of the mainland—around 60%—is also exposed to storm surge, and shoreline erosion continues to impact coastal areas. On top of that, nearly half the county is permanently protected, and most land is either agricultural or conserved, leaving relatively little space for new growth.

Because of these constraints, the focus is not on spreading development outward, but on strengthening and building within areas that are already developed. To keep things practical, parcels were considered more suitable for development if they were close to existing infrastructure—specifically, within approximately 100 ft of a public water line and/or located within established sewer service areas.* This helps identify places where development is more realistic and cost-effective, since utilities are already nearby.

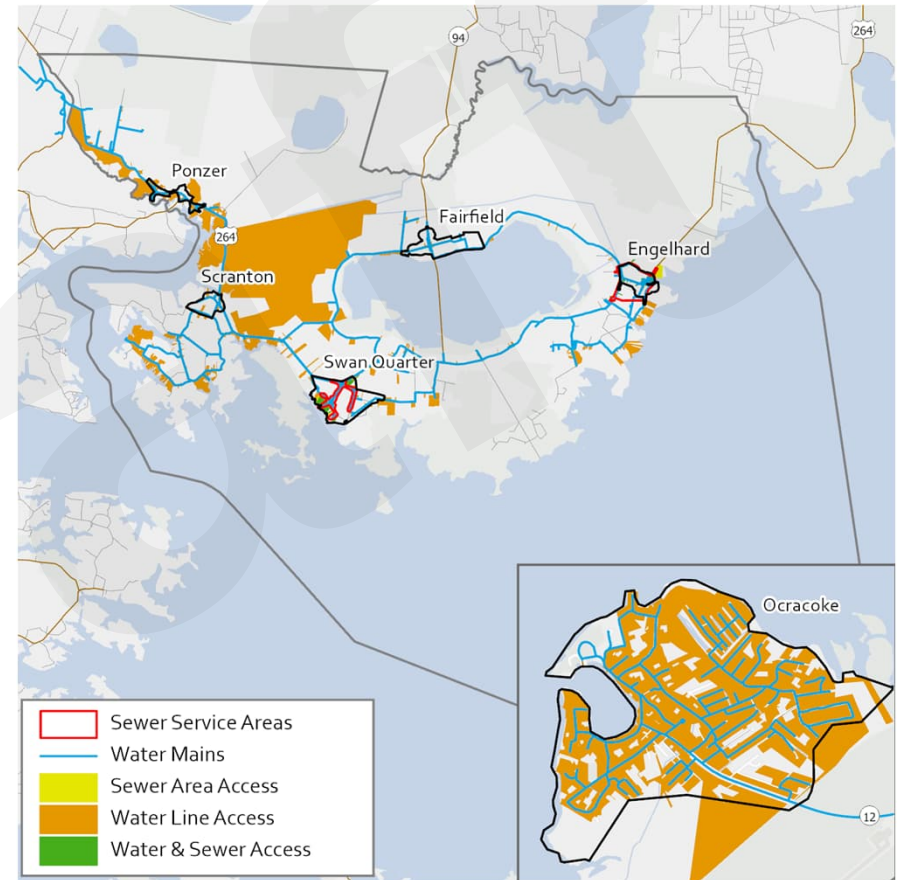
Sewer Area Access – 0.08% of land area (370 acres)

Water Line Access – 10.03% of land area (43,941 acres)

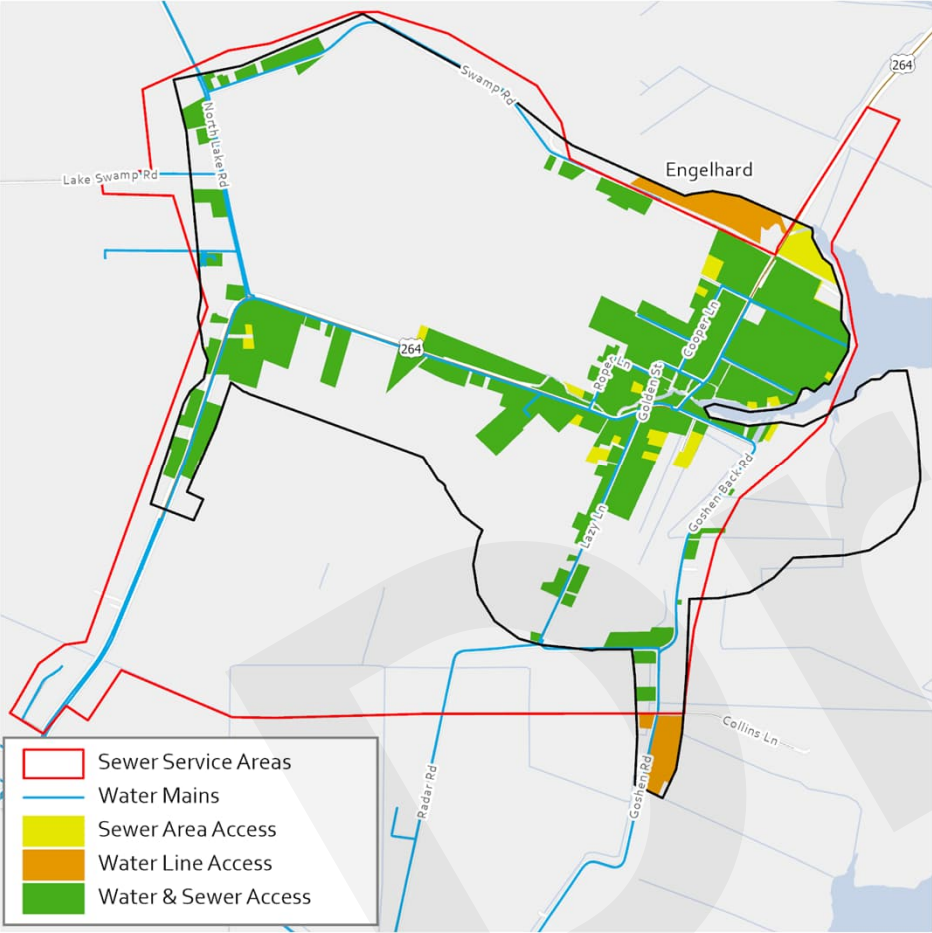
Water & Sewer Access – 0.32% of land area (1,385 acres)

*The 100-ft distance from a public water main is a conservative assumption appropriate for a high-level analysis. In practice, development typically needs to be within approximately 60–75 ft to maintain adequate water pressure without requiring cost-prohibitive measures. All parcels within 100 ft of a water main were captured, but please note that several parcels contain significant acreage, and therefore only part of the parcel could potentially be served by public water.

Hyde County Land Suitability Analysis



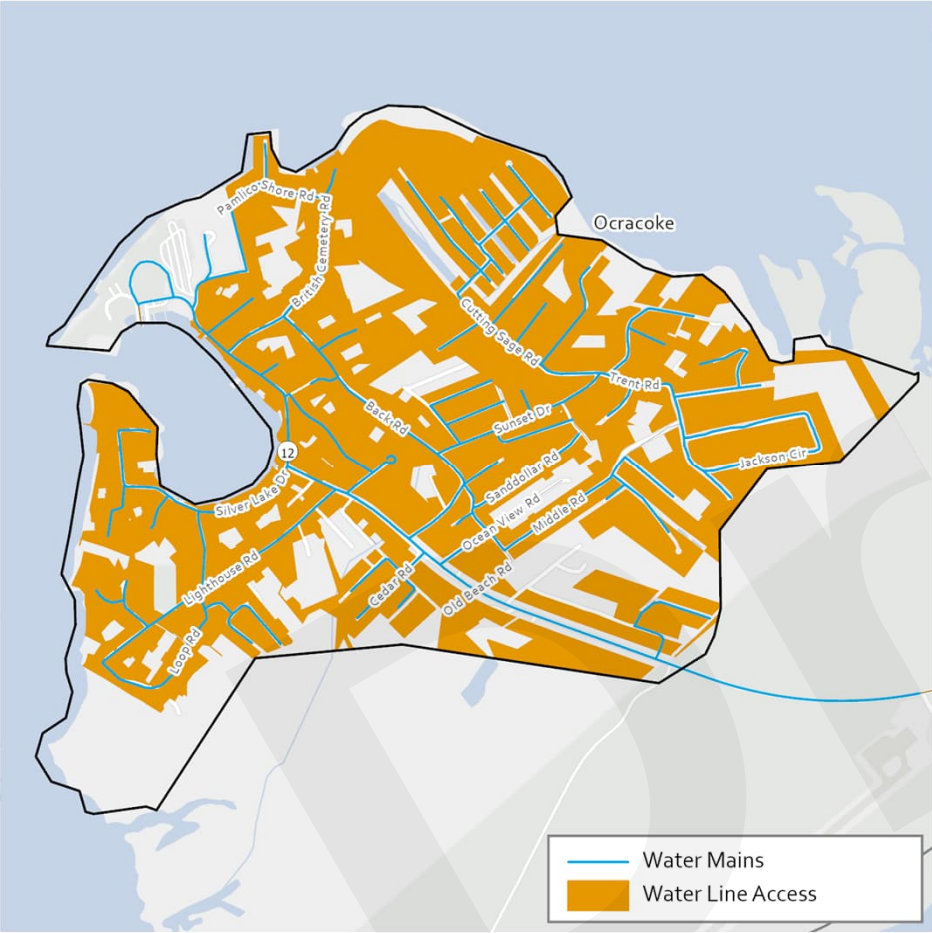
Engelhard – Land Suitability Analysis



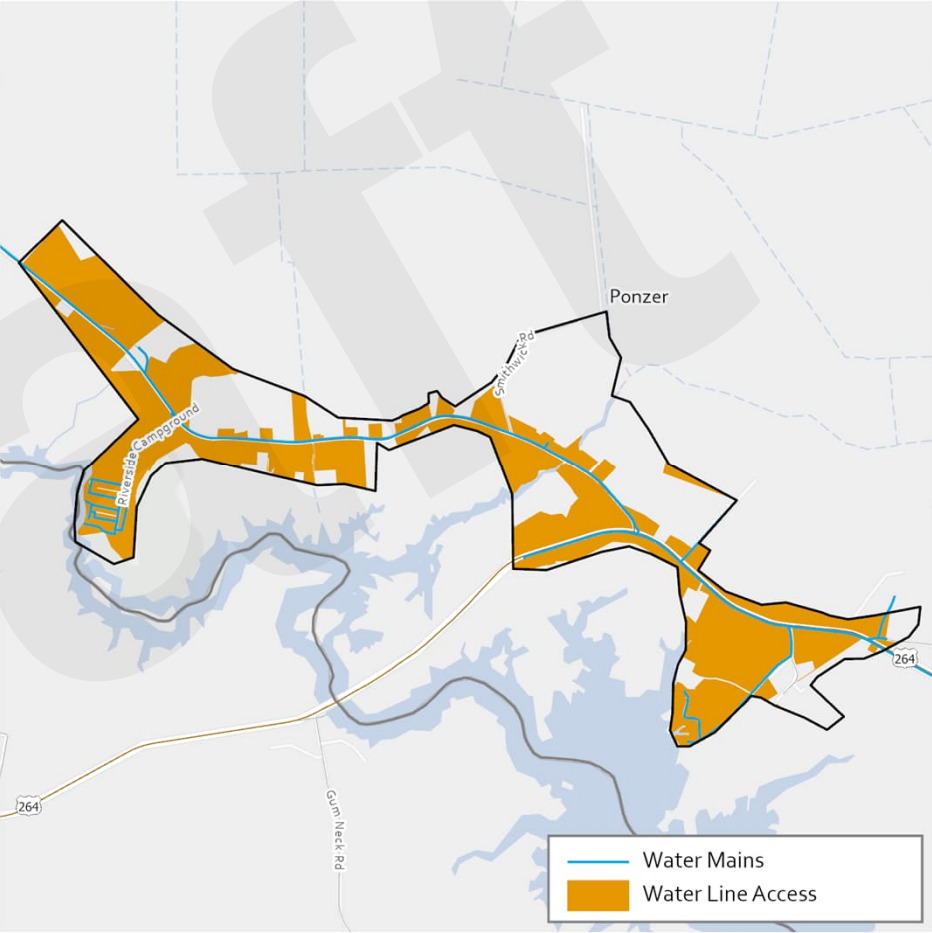
Fairfield – Land Suitability Analysis



Ocracoke – Land Suitability Analysis



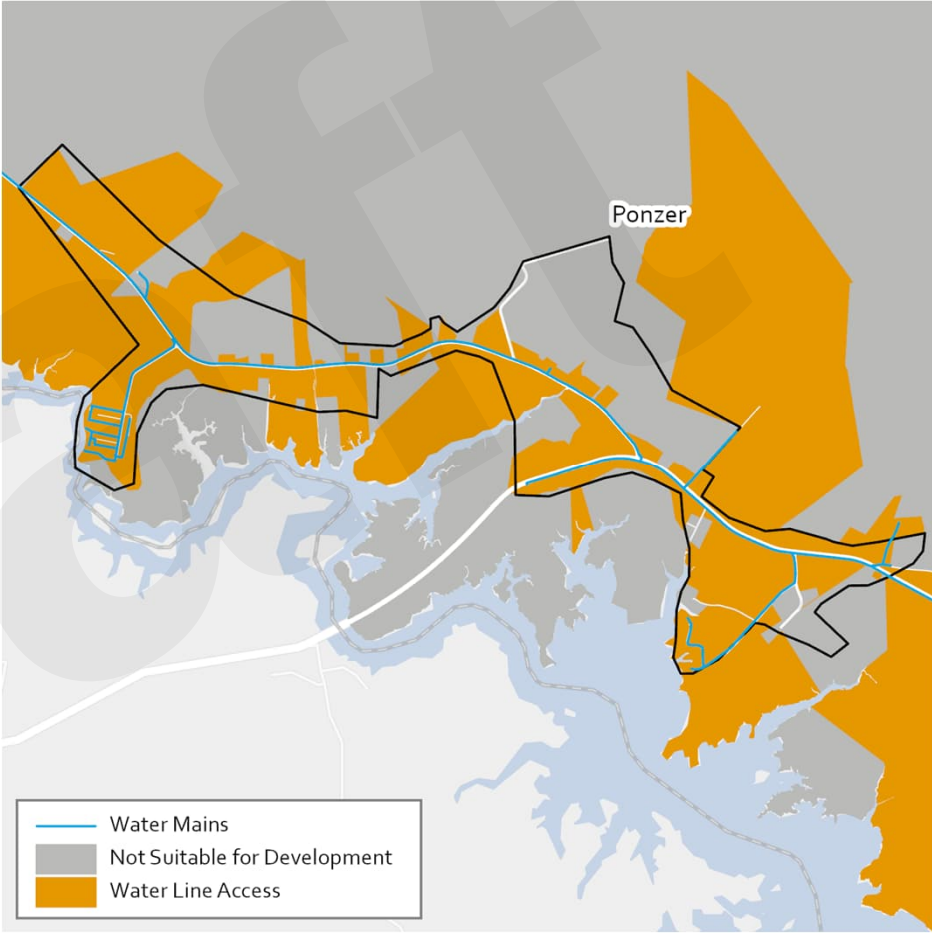
Ponzer – Land Suitability Analysis



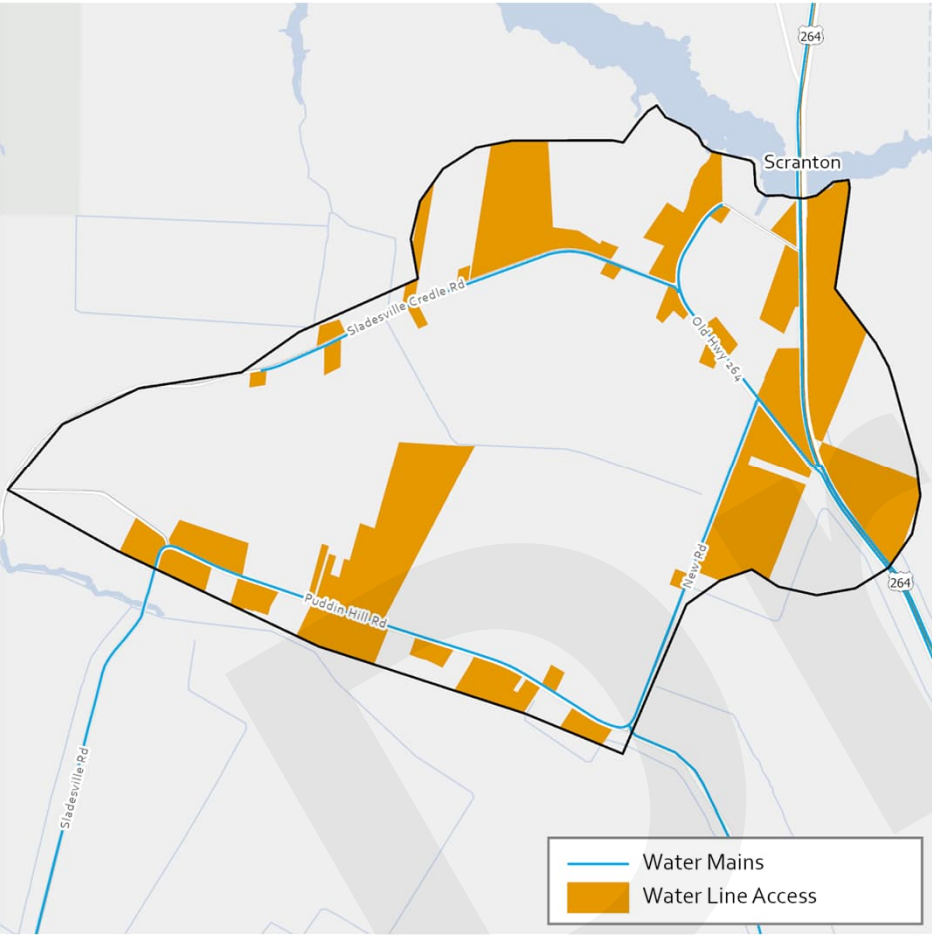
Ocracoke – Land Suitability Analysis



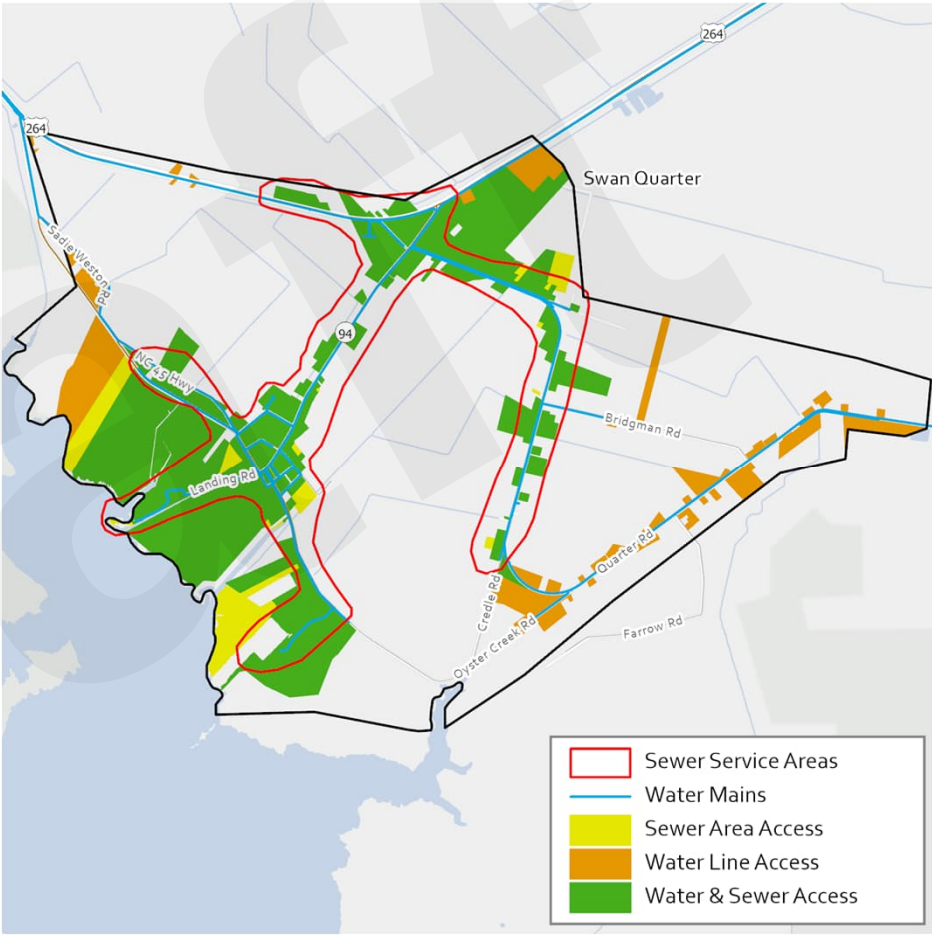
Ponzer – Land Suitability Analysis



Scranton – Land Suitability Analysis



Swan Quarter – Land Suitability Analysis



Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: BUDGET MATTERS

SUMMARY: Departmental budget revisions and amendments will be presented by department managers for Board discussion and approval.

RECOMMEND: Discussion and approve budget revisions and amendments.

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2026/2027 BUDGET REVISIONS

			MEETING DATE		
			9/2/2026		
				"+" EXP BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET
				"-" REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET
(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-50200-500-490-000000-00	SALARIES	\$ 55,125.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-50500-500-490-000000-00	FICA	\$ 4,218.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-50600-500-490-000000-00	GROUP INSURANCE	\$ 11,106.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-50700-500-490-000000-00	RETIREMENT	\$ 8,352.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-51400-500-490-000000-00	TRAVEL	\$ 2,000.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-43300-500-490-000000-00	DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSE	\$ 2,000.00	
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-54500-500-490-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES		\$ 35,000.00
	PLANNING & ECON DEVELOPMENT	100-59900-500-490-000000-00	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		\$ 5,000.00
	ADMINISTRATION	100-55903-100-420-000000-00	UNC STUDENT		\$ 30,000.00
	ADMINISTRATION	100-55410-100-420-000000-00	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE		\$ 5,801.00
	ADMINISTRATION	100-54500-100-420-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES		\$ 5,000.00
	ADMINISTRATION	100-57400-100-420-000000-00	EQUIPMENT		\$ 2,000.00
			TOTAL	\$ 82,801.00	\$ 82,801.00
		MOVING MONIES BETWEEN ADMIN AND PLANNING TO CREATE A GRANT ADMINISTRATION POSITION. DOES NOT INCREASE GENERAL FUND BUDGET			

Hyde Co Board of Commissioner FY 26-27

MEETING DATE
9/2/2026

"+" EXP BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET
"-" REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
02/27	General Health	100-54504-600-590-00000-00	Contracted Services		\$ 8,760.00
	General Health	100-53300-600-590-00000-00	Departmental Expenses	\$ 8,760.00	
TOTAL				\$ 8,760.00	\$ 8,760.00

These funds are intended for IT expenses from Dept. Supplies in GH. They were budgeted into Contracted Services incorrectly. The \$8,760.00 should be moved from GH Contracted Services to GH Dept. Expenses. **The budget stays the same and no local appropriations are needed.**

REQUESTED



DATE

8/27/26

APPROVED...

CO MANAGER

CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR

CLERK TO BOARD

**HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FYE 25-26**

MEETING DATE 9/2/2026				
(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	"+" EXP BUDGET "- REV BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET "+ REV BUDGET
			DEBIT	CREDIT
	100-51900-100-410-000000-00	EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION	\$ 500.00	
	100-51400-100-410-000000-00	TRAVEL		\$ 500.00
	100-54500-100-460-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$ 300.00	
	100-57400-100-460-000000-00	EQUIPMENT		\$ 300.00
	100-51500-100-500-000000-00	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	\$ 500.00	
	100-53300-100-500-000000-00	DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSE		\$ 500.00
	100-50711-200-510-000000-00	FIRST RESPONDER FEES	\$ 2,500.00	
	100-51500-200-510-000000-00	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	\$ 200.00	
	100-54500-200-510-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$ 50.00	
	100-55300-200-510-000000-00	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 100.00	
	100-56011-200-510-000000-00	AUTO MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,000.00	
	100-57400-200-510-000000-00	EQUIPMENT	\$ 300.00	
	100-54500-200-600-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$ 2,450.00	
	100-59800-200-510-000000-00	EDUCATION & TRAINING		\$ 7,600.00
	100-50693-500-605-000000-00	NCSU SEND IN SALARIES	\$ 15,220.00	
	100-50694-500-605-000000-00	NCSU SEND IN BENEFITS	\$ 4,500.00	
	100-57400-500-605-000000-00	EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,070.00	
	100-40903-200-592-000000-06	EMS BILLS		\$ 20,790.00
	100-53300-600-582-000000-00	DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSE	\$ 210.00	
	100-54500-600-582-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES		\$ 210.00
	100-50024-600-614-000000-00	SSBG LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,000.00	
	100-50041-600-614-000000-00	TITLE IVE ADOPT ASSISTANCE		\$ 2,000.00
	100-50700-600-620-000000-00	RETIREMENT	\$ 10.00	
	100-57400-600-620-000000-00	EQUIPMENT		\$ 10.00
	550-53300-600-000-000000-00	DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSE	\$ 2,292.00	
	550-40736-600-000-000000-07	ALBEMARLE COMMISSION		\$ 2,292.00
	600-51504-000-000-000000-00	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR PRODUCTION	\$ 4,000.00	
	600-41000-000-000-000000-00	INTEREST ON INVESTMENT		\$ 4,600.00
	600-50039-000-000-000000-00	LAB TESTING	\$ 600.00	
			\$ 38,802.00	\$ 38,802.00
To budget for unexpected overages in certain expenditure lines. Transfers have been made between expenditure lines within departments and funds, with the exception of cooperative extension due to an accounting change. This was offset with a revenue line we collected more than what was budgeted. Fund balance appropriated was not required.				

REQUESTED _____ DATE _____

APPROVED... CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO THE BOARD

ENTERED LEDGER/DATE _____

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Presenter: Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners, Manager
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

SUMMARY: This is a time for each Commissioner to give reports on their work representing the County.

Additionally, Commissioners may wish to bring up issues they wish to have followed up by the Board or by the County Manager.

The County Manager will give an oral update on various projects and other administrative matters.

RECOMMEND: Receive reports. Discussion and possible action as necessary.

MOTION MADE BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

VOTE: ☐ MATHEWS
☐ SWINDELL
☐ MOORE
☐ MIDGETTE
☐ BERRY

Department Reports



HYDE COUNTY CENTER

August 2026

County Commissioners Report

The 56th Blackland Farm Managers Tour | August | Over 600 people attended the 56th Blackland Farm Managers Tour on August 5, 2026 in Beaufort County. This premier agricultural event featured self-paced exploration of field research, live technology demonstrations, and NC State University Extension presentations. Live "See & Spray" weed management evaluations and on-site farm-scale tile drainage installations by Allegheny Services. Studies on optimal nitrogen and seeding rate combinations by hybrid, plus indeterminate soybean performance across varying irrigation levels. Pesticide (2 hours X, N, D, O) and Certified Crop Adviser (3.5 CCA) credits were also available.

Mattamuskeet Lodge Restoration | August | The Mattamuskeet Lodge Restoration reached a milestone on August 7th and received a permit for the wastewater system. The wastewater system design has been uploaded into Interscope to be reviewed and approved by the State Construction Office. As soon as the S.C.O. approves the plans we can begin the bidding process. The overall construction plan of the Mattamuskeet Lodge is also awaiting approval from the S.C.O. to rebid out the modified Phase 1.

NCAE4-HYDP Annual Conference | August 18-20 | Hyde County 4-H Extension Agent Lee Brimmage recently attended the NCAE4-HYDP Annual Conference (*North Carolina Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals*), concluding his term after serving as State Secretary for the association over the past year. Throughout the event, he fulfilled his official duties while participating in extensive professional development workshops focused on leadership, agriculture, and volunteerism. Brimmage will integrate these strategic insights into Hyde County 4-H programming to strengthen local youth initiatives.

Eastern Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament | August 22 | Thirteen Hyde County youth competed across archery, shotgun, rifle, and other disciplines at the Eastern Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament hosted at the Eastern 4-H Center. Standout participants, Brody Tooley and Aiden Davis, brought home multiple Gold and

Silver medals for their outstanding performances in archery and small bore pistol. Both competitors will now advance to the NC 4-H State Competition on October 3rd, where they will aim to qualify for the National Competition in Nebraska. We are proud of all of our 4-H'ers and appreciative of our coaches, parents, and volunteers. A special thanks to our lead volunteer instructor Drew Berry for his hard work and dedication leading our team!

Waste Less, Save More: Why Food Waste Matters | August | A four-week social media education series focused on reducing food waste in Hyde County. The series highlighted the importance of reducing food waste, ways residents can save money through better meal planning and food storage, and methods for preserving excess food. The campaign concluded with a community poll to assess interest in future Extension workshops on water bath and pressure canning.

Getting Ahead of the Holiday Meal Cost | August | A six-part social media series was launched in August to help Hyde County residents prepare for the holiday season while managing food costs. The series provides practical tips for planning meals, shopping strategically, stocking shelf-stable and frozen foods, and reducing last-minute grocery expenses. Each post directs residents to a detailed Extension blog for additional information and resources.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Debbie Cahoon
(252) 926-4195

HYDE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NC AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Hyde SWCD has received their North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program Funds in the amount of \$76,614.00 for the 2026-/2027 program year. In addition, the District received \$10,000.00 in cost share funds for identified impaired/impacted watershed areas. The District also received \$10,000.00 through the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP). The total cost share allocation for Hyde County is \$96,614.00. The sign up for applications is now available and will continue through January 31, 2027 or until all funds have been expended. The District offers funding on BMP's such as nutrient management, water control structures, land smoothing and 3 year continuous no-till crop rotation. The limit for nutrient management acreage is 250 acres and applicant must agree to carry out the practice for three years on the same land. The incentive payment for this practice is \$10.00 per acre. The acreage limit on conservation tillage is 100 acres. The incentive payment for this practice is \$60.00 per acre. The District is offering land smoothing at \$381.50 an acre with a 40 acre cap and cover crop at 150 acres at \$70.00 an acre.

The purpose of the cost share program is to reduce the amount of nutrients entering surface and groundwater through best management practices (BMP's) such as nutrient management.

If you are interested in these programs, please contact the Hyde Soil & Water Conservation District office located at 30 Oyster Creek Road, Hyde Government Center, Suite 131 in Swan Quarter, North Carolina. You may also call our office at (252) 926-4195 or (252) 926-7253. Kent Vaughan, Hyde County Flood & Water Drainage Coordinador & District Cost Share Specialist will be happy to talk to you about our programs and assist you with the application process.

Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Updates – <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/commission>

- **Next SWCC Meeting** – to be held September 16 in Orange County. Stay tuned to the district listserv for details.
- **JAA issued in July 2026** – congratulations to... Dustin Brewer (Durham), Tyler Cornett (Alexander), Joseph Huntley (Montgomery), Payton Roberts (Johnston), and Mikey Woodie (Wilkes).

Cost Share Committee	
The Cost Share Committee was established to review and evaluate policies that affect multiple cost share programs. The Committee ensures consistency, clarity, and alignment of these policies across programs. It does not address Best Management Practices (BMPs), as those decisions remain the responsibility of each program's individual technical review committee.	
Charge of the Cost Share Committee: • Review and consider policy issues that span multiple cost share programs. • Develop and recommend revisions to cost share program rules.	
Current discussion items include: • Revisions to the New & Expanded Operation Policy, Repair Policy, Criteria for extension of previous program year contracts and Cancellation for cost share contracts in unresolved pending status • Comments are being accepted for the Draft Repair Policy: Cost Share Committee Draft Policy Revision Feedback Survey • Next meeting: August 17 at 9:00 am	
Questions: contact Julie Henshaw or any of the members listed on website	
Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) • The Technical Review Committee (TRC) will meet August 26 at 1:30 pm and will include discussion of the Biochar BMP	Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) • The AgWRAP Review Committee (ARC) will meet on December 14th at 1pm to discuss regional project awards.
Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) The CCAP Advisory Committee (CAC) is discussing the following items at their upcoming meetings: October 13th at 1:30 pm to discuss preliminary project rankings December 8th at 1:30 pm to discuss final project considerations	Questions: contact Lorien Deaton or any of the members listed on the website.
Questions: contact Sam Allbee or any of the members listed on website.	District staff and supervisors are welcome at all committee meetings, and we encourage you to share feedback through the committee process.

Division of Soil & Water Conservation Updates – <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation>

- **State Budget Update** – NC Governor, Josh Stein, signed the state budget into law on July 7, 2026. Some notable items include \$2M (non-recurring) for ACSP, and \$48.9M for Farmland Preservation (\$46.9M in non-recurring funds and \$2M in recurring funds).
- **Cost Share Updates** – Please see the full newsletter for program updates on the following pages... welcome PY27!
- **StRAP Helene-Funding** - \$34.2 million has been awarded to grantees in the counties affected by Hurricane Helene (as identified in the FEMA disaster declaration). Funds were awarded across 3 rounds of applications, as well as a round of supplemental funding that was approved by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission on July 9th. These supplemental funds were awarded to organizations that had already received funding but had ongoing need after the initial rounds of awards. In total, funds were awarded to 34 organizations, including soil & water conservation districts, county governments, town governments, and nonprofit organizations. Funded work includes stream debris removal, streambank stabilization, stream restoration, sediment removal, and small watershed dam repair. Grantees are in the process of executing StRAP contractors and beginning project work. In Fall 2026, the Division will award additional StRAP funding to grantees affected by Hurricane Helene. More information on this funding will be announced in the coming months.
- **Local Advisory Committees** - data spreadsheets have been shared for CY2025 reporting. The deadline to submit county data reports is **August 14th, 2026**. Districts should take steps to organize this local process and plan for county data report completion by the deadline. If you are a new employee and have never participated in the Local Advisory Committee /county data submittal process before, please [contact Allie Dinwiddie](#) for assistance. Allie can attend/help lead local meetings or provide one-on-one support to help staff meet the August deadline.
- **Cape Fear River Basin Plan** - a draft was released to the public in early May. Comments on the plan will be accepted until August 4, 2026. More information can be found in this press release: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2026/05/05/draft-cape-fear-river-basin-plan-available-public-comment-through-aug-4>
- **Be in the Know** – make note of upcoming AgWRAP, CCAP and TRC Advisory Committee meetings as listed in "Upcoming Events"! Also, check p. 1 for updates from SWCC advisory committees!

- **Stay connected** - for more updates, course openings, and opportunities to strengthen your skills! Visit [NCSWCTraining.org](https://ncswctraining.org) to learn about these opportunities and more!

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Updates – www.ncaswcd.org

- **Southeast NACD Meeting** – North Carolina to host in Cherokee, NC, August 9-12 - <https://ncswctraining.org/allevnts/2026-senacd/>.
- **Education Outreach Coordinator** - The Randolph SWCD has supported the Education Outreach position in an agreement with the Association since 2024-2025. This agreement worked well to provide the support needed for our Association and Soil and Water Conservation Districts across our state. Thank you to many Districts who provided the financial assistance to make this a reality. Please consider your continued, or new support for this position. If your District or Area needs a specific invoice to contribute, please let Bryan Evans know at ncaswcd@gmail.com.
- **Award application deadline** – September 1 – consider nominating exceptional staff, supervisors, teachers, etc. Details in the contest handbook - <https://ncaswcd.org/index.php/conservation-education/environmental-poster-and-essay-contest/>. Completed applications can be emailed to jessicam.davis@randolphcountync.gov.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Updates – www.nacdnet.org/

Updates and opportunities are below:

- August 9-12, 2026 - SENACD Annual Meeting | Cherokee, NC
- February 6-10, 2027 – 2027 NACD Annual Meeting | Las Vegas, NV

Upcoming Events

Aug 5 – RUSLE2 – Buncombe
Aug 9 – 12 – Southeast NACD meeting – Cherokee, NC
Aug 17 – Cost Share Committee Meeting – virtual – 9am
Aug 19 – Project SWAT – Wilkes, McGee Center – 9am
Aug 26 – Area 2 DIC – Wilkes, McGee Center – 10:30am
Aug 26 – TRC Meeting (ACSP Advisory Committee) – virtual – 1:30pm
Sept 1 – DEADLINE for NCASWCD award applications – *Supervisor of the Year, District Employee of the Year, etc.*
Sept 16 – NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission Business Meeting – 9am
Sept 25 – Project SWAT – Area 5 – Beaufort County – 12pm
Sept 30 – DEADLINE for CCAP Regional Applications
Oct 4 – 8 – Conservation Employees Training (CET) – Greensboro, NC
Oct 13 – CAC Meeting (CCAP Advisory Committee) – virtual - 1:30pm
Oct 13 – NCASWCD A1 Fall Meeting
Oct 14 – NCASWCD A8 Fall Meeting
Oct 15 – NCASWCD A2 Fall Meeting
Oct 20 – NCASWCD A6 Fall Meeting
Oct 22 – NCASWCD A3 Fall Meeting
Oct 27 – NCASWCD A7 Fall Meeting
Nov 12 – NCASWCD A5 Fall Meeting
Nov 19 – NCASWCD A4 Fall Meeting
Dec 8 – CAC Meeting (CCAP Advisory Committee) – virtual – 1:30pm
Dec 14 – ARC Meeting (AgWRAP Advisory Committee) – virtual – 1:00pm
Jan 10 – Jan 12, 2027 – NCASWCD Annual Meeting, Greensboro, NC



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Updates

Matt Walker State Conservationist Website: www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Unveils New Conservation Priorities to Keep Working Lands in Working Hands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is putting farmers first and reaffirming this commitment by updating its strategic priorities, motto and mission and vision statements for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These updates complement NRCS's historic role in providing practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions for producers.

The new NRCS motto and mission and vision statements are:

Motto: Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands

Mission Statement: We deliver practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

Vision Statement: An America where working lands remain productive, resilient, and in the hands of those who steward them.

NRCS is also updating its strategic priorities to guide agency operations, program delivery, stakeholder engagement and modernization efforts through fiscal year 2026 and beyond.

NRCS's seven priorities include:

- Preserve and protect agricultural land;
- Shift to outcome-based conservation and farmer empowerment;
- Re-center field engagement and strengthen technical expertise;
- Expand wildlife conservation and outdoor access;
- Strengthen partnerships by streamlining processes and accountability;
- Optimize mission delivery by strengthening workforce culture; and
- Modernize NRCS infrastructure and technology.

Learn more about the priorities at nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities.

**North Carolina
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

To find your local service center, use our locator tool at USDA Service Center Locator.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Allocation of 2027 ACSP Financial Assistance Funds & Hyde SWCD Revenue for TA

	REGULAR ACSP (CS/SFR)		Impaired/Impacted Earmark (II)		Upper French Broad (UFB)		Total
DISTRICT	REQUESTED	FY2027 CS/SFR funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 II funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 UFB funds: July 2026	FY2027 TOTAL: July 2026
ALAMANCE	\$ 175,000	\$ 79,942	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,942
ALEXANDER	\$ 200,000	\$ 72,548	\$ 25,000	\$ 14,590	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87,138
ALLEGHANY	\$ 200,000	\$ 66,444	\$ 25,000	\$ 13,363	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,807
ANSON	\$ 400,000	\$ 79,252	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,939	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,191
ASHE	\$ 100,000	\$ 68,152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,152
AVERY	\$ 375,000	\$ 50,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,078
BEAUFORT	\$ 217,350	\$ 70,666	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,666
BERTIE	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 51,089	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,089
BLADEN	\$ 80,000	\$ 59,142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,142
BRUNSWICK	\$ 90,000	\$ 47,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,303
BUNCOMBE	\$ 433,000	\$ 61,667	\$ 64,500	\$ 12,402	\$ 200,000	\$ 168,070	\$ 242,139
BURKE	\$ 100,000	\$ 54,026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,026
CABARRUS	\$ 150,000	\$ 68,236	\$ 20,000	\$ 13,723	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,959
CALDWELL	\$ 100,000	\$ 61,876	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,320
CAMDEN	\$ 90,000	\$ 51,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,984
CARTERET	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
CASWELL	\$ 100,000	\$ 62,468	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,468
CATAWBA	\$ 125,000	\$ 79,466	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,466
CHATHAM	\$ 325,500	\$ 84,068	\$ 126,800	\$ 16,907	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,975
CHEROKEE	\$ 125,000	\$ 66,457	\$ 30,000	\$ 13,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,823
CHOWAN	\$ 100,000	\$ 62,926	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,655	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,581
CLAY	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,044	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,044
CLEVELAND	\$ 141,000	\$ 74,883	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,883
COLUMBUS	\$ 170,400	\$ 55,301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,301
CRAVEN	\$ 100,000	\$ 53,428	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,428
CUMBERLAND	\$ 115,000	\$ 54,443	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,949	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,392
CURRITUCK	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000
DARE	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
DAVIDSON	\$ 123,640	\$ 86,847	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,847
DAVIE	\$ 85,000	\$ 80,990	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,990
DUPLIN	\$ 125,000	\$ 110,812	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,286	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133,098
DURHAM	\$ 100,000	\$ 78,921	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,921
EDGECOMBE	\$ 825,000	\$ 67,248	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,248
FORSYTH	\$ 100,000	\$ 78,575	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,575
FRANKLIN	\$ 150,000	\$ 86,234	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,234
GASTON	\$ 42,816	\$ 42,816	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,816
GATES	\$ 67,500	\$ 43,183	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,183
GRAHAM	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000
GRANVILLE	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000
GREENE	\$ 90,500	\$ 80,798	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,798
GUILFORD	\$ 150,000	\$ 78,804	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,804

	REGULAR ACSP (CS/SFR)		Impaired/Impacted Earmark (II)		Upper French Broad (UFB)		Total
DISTRICT	REQUESTED	FY2027 CS/SFR funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 II funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 UFB funds: July 2026	FY2027 TOTAL: July 2026
HALIFAX	\$ 175,000	\$ 69,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,000
HARNETT	\$ 70,000	\$ 68,926	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,926
HAYWOOD	\$ 180,000	\$ 68,963	\$ 75,000	\$ 13,869	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 232,832
HENDERSON	\$ 250,000	\$ 56,759	\$ 75,000	\$ 11,415	\$ 175,000	\$ 154,692	\$ 222,866
HERTFORD	\$ 200,000	\$ 58,184	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,702	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,886
HOKE	\$ 195,500	\$ 51,357	\$ 18,000	\$ 10,329	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,686
HYDE	\$ 100,000	\$ 76,614	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,614
IREDELL	\$ 120,000	\$ 70,284	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,284
JACKSON	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000
JOHNSTON	\$ 650,000	\$ 90,297	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 108,457
JONES	\$ 200,000	\$ 64,957	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,957
LEE	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
LENOIR	\$ 150,000	\$ 59,937	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,054	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,991
LINCOLN	\$ 200,000	\$ 66,477	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,370	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,847
MACON	\$ 75,000	\$ 50,573	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,573
MADISON	\$ 48,000	\$ 44,969	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 122,561	\$ 167,530
MARTIN	\$ 175,000	\$ 47,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,614
MCDOWELL	\$ 50,000	\$ 43,691	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,691
MECKLENBURG	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
MITCHELL	\$ 400,000	\$ 65,788	\$ 200,000	\$ 13,231	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,019
MONTGOMERY	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000
MOORE	\$ 253,000	\$ 58,003	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,003
NASH	\$ 100,000	\$ 61,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,739
NEW HANOVER	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,342	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,342
NORTHAMPTON	\$ 85,000	\$ 55,869	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,869
ONSLOW	\$ 150,000	\$ 58,793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,793
ORANGE	\$ 150,000	\$ 77,522	\$ 55,952	\$ 15,591	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,113
PAMLICO	\$ 300,000	\$ 74,528	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,528
PASQUOTANK	\$ 75,000	\$ 55,572	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,748
PENDER	\$ 143,400	\$ 53,064	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,064
PERQUIMANS	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,975	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,252	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,227
PERSON	\$ 100,000	\$ 71,511	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,511
PITT	\$ 750,000	\$ 75,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,910
POLK	\$ 48,500	\$ 23,446	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,446
RANDOLPH	\$ 280,000	\$ 81,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,554
RICHMOND	\$ 100,000	\$ 63,991	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,991
ROBESON	\$ 95,650	\$ 66,428	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,428
ROCKINGHAM	\$ 125,000	\$ 75,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,360
ROWAN	\$ 165,000	\$ 89,643	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,643
RUTHERFORD	\$ 100,000	\$ 62,794	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,794
SAMPSON	\$ 349,000	\$ 100,696	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,696
SCOTLAND	\$ 80,000	\$ 38,370	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,370
STANLY	\$ 125,000	\$ 85,999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,999
STOKES	\$ 200,000	\$ 67,142	\$ 30,000	\$ 13,503	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,645
SURRY	\$ 150,000	\$ 83,550	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,550

	REGULAR ACSP (CS/SFR)		Impaired/Impacted Earmark (II)		Upper French Broad (UFB)		Total
DISTRICT	REQUESTED	FY2027 CS/SFR funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 II funds: July 2026	REQUESTED	FY2027 UFB funds: July 2026	FY2027 TOTAL: July 2026
SWAIN	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,500
TRANSYLVANIA	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 125,000
TYRRELL	\$ 150,000	\$ 51,341	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,341
UNION	\$ 300,000	\$ 101,282	\$ 200,000	\$ 20,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,651
VANCE	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000
WAKE	\$ 213,905	\$ 89,593	\$ 118,940	\$ 18,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,612
WARREN	\$ 75,000	\$ 55,398	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,539
WASHINGTON	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000
WATAUGA	\$ 100,000	\$ 69,906	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,906
WAYNE	\$ 180,000	\$ 80,343	\$ 30,000	\$ 16,158	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 96,501
WILKES	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 77,917	\$ 500,000	\$ 15,670	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,587
WILSON	\$ 150,000	\$ 60,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,410
YADKIN	\$ 750,000	\$ 93,238	\$ 125,000	\$ 18,752	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,990
YANCEY	\$ 172,440	\$ 50,073	\$ 80,000	\$ 10,071	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,144
TOTALS	\$ 19,151,101	\$ 6,310,765	\$ 2,405,692	\$500,000	\$ 750,000	\$670,323	\$ 7,481,088

County	FY2027 BMP funds requested for all AgWRAP BMPs	FY2027 AgWRAP (AG) allocation (\$10,250 min)
ALAMANCE	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
ALEXANDER	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
ALLEGHANY	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
ANSON - BROWN CREEK	\$ 75,000	\$ 10,250
ASHE - NEW RIVER	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
AVERY	\$ 14,000	\$ 10,250
BEAUFORT	\$ 130,950	\$ 10,250
BERTIE	\$ -	\$ -
BLADEN	\$ 40,000	\$ 17,161
BRUNSWICK	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
BUNCOMBE	\$ 135,000	\$ 10,250
BURKE	\$ 60,000	\$ 10,250
CABARRUS	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
CALDWELL	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
CAMDEN	\$ -	\$ -
CARTERET	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
CASWELL	\$ 21,000	\$ 10,250
CATAWBA	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
CHATHAM	\$ 177,000	\$ 10,250
CHEROKEE	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
CHOWAN	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
CLAY	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
CLEVELAND	\$ 130,000	\$ 10,250
COLUMBUS	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
CRAVEN	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250
CUMBERLAND	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,250
CURRITUCK	\$ -	\$ -
DARE	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
DAVIDSON	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
DAVIE	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
DUPLIN	\$ 100,000	\$ 34,885
DURHAM	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,250
EDGECOMBE	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
FORSYTH	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,250
FRANKLIN	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,250
GASTON	\$ 66,683	\$ 10,250
GATES	\$ 22,000	\$ 10,250
GRAHAM	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
GRANVILLE	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
GREENE	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,250
GUILFORD	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250

HALIFAX - FISHING CREEK	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250
HARNETT	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
HAYWOOD	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250
HENDERSON	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,250
HERTFORD	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
HOKE	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
HYDE	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
IREDELL	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
JACKSON	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
JOHNSTON	\$ 600,000	\$ 13,328
JONES	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
LEE	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
LENOIR	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,250
LINCOLN	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,250
MACON	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
MADISON	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
MARTIN	\$ -	\$ -
MCDOWELL	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
MECKLENBURG	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
MITCHELL	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,250
MONTGOMERY	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,250
MOORE	\$ 79,866	\$ 10,250
NASH	\$ 60,000	\$ 11,588
NEW HANOVER	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,250
NORTHAMPTON	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
ONslow	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
ORANGE	\$ 45,000	\$ 10,250
PAMLICO	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
PASQUOTANK	\$ -	\$ -
PENDER	\$ 21,000	\$ 10,250
PERQUIMANS	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,250
PERSON	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,250
PITT	\$ 250,000	\$ 10,250
POLK	\$ 55,000	\$ 10,250
RANDOLPH	\$ -	\$ -
RICHMOND	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
ROBESON	\$ 29,000	\$ 10,250
ROCKINGHAM	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,250
ROWAN	\$ 22,000	\$ 10,250
RUTHERFORD	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,250
SAMPSON	\$ 338,000	\$ 34,595
SCOTLAND	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
STANLY	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,250
STOKES	\$ 36,000	\$ 10,250
SURRY	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,250
SWAIN	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250

TRANSYLVANIA	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
TYRRELL	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	\$ 51,000	\$ 10,969
VANCE	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
WAKE	\$ 158,600	\$ 10,250
WARREN	\$ 16,000	\$ 10,250
WASHINGTON	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,250
WATAUGA	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250
WAYNE	\$ 80,000	\$ 10,586
WILKES	\$ 185,000	\$ 10,250
WILSON	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,250
YADKIN	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,250
YANCEY	\$ 78,000	\$ 10,250
Total funds requested	\$ 5,205,699	\$ 999,213

Districts are encouraged to encumber AG funds before February 1, 2027, so reallocations can occur with funds that are voluntarily returned. AG funds will be reallocated for supplemental, repair, or new projects ready for contracting until funds are exhausted.

FY2027 BMP Funds	\$ 817,500
Rollover from cancelations, releases and unencumbered funds (AG, AP, TVA)	\$ 431,517
Total AgWRAP Funding Available	\$ 1,249,017
FY27 Allocations	\$ 1,249,017
District Allocations (AG)	\$ 999,213
Regional Applications (AP)	\$ 249,803

FY2027 Cost Share Program Updates



General Cost Share Updates

Update Meeting

Division staff will host a **program update webinar** on **Thursday, August 6th at 9:00 AM**. This webinar will be recorded. Use this [link](#) to join the meeting.

District Allocations

Technical and Financial Assistance Allocations have been approved by the Commission. You can find your district's allocations here:

- [ACSP Technical Assistance](#)
- [ACSP Financial Assistance](#)
- [AgWRAP Financial Assistance](#)

Cost share allocations are active in [CS2](#); your district may now enter contracts for FY27.

Forms and Resources

ACSP and AgWRAP Cost List Calculators are updated and can be found on each program's Resources page, under Tools & Calculators.

Impaired & Impacted Resource Updates

- Map-it Tool in CS2 is updated with IISI watersheds
- The [FY2027 Priority IISI watershed map](#) and list is updated on the [IISI website](#)

Please continue to use the [Cancellation](#) and [6-month Extension](#) forms when canceling and extending contracts. Please upload completed forms into CS2.

The [ACSP](#), [AgWRAP](#), and [CCAP](#) review committee meeting dates have been updated on their respective program pages and the partnership calendar.

New District Employees

Please continue to complete the [New Employee Welcome Form](#) when your district makes a new hire. Division staff will schedule training shortly after their start date.

Extensions

Extensions have been processed in CS2. Please work on completing these contracts. Lisa will be tracking progress and following up throughout the year.

Recurring Technical Assistance Funding	\$ 2,474,098
Minimum Allocation Per Rule	\$ 20,000
Number of District/Counties Requesting Funding	99
Maximum Allocation Per Rule	\$ 30,000

County	Best 3 of the last 7 years using CS2 (excluding disaster response contracts) at 100% + outside funds at 25%	Proposed Draft FY2027-2029 Technical Assistance Allocation	FY2026 Allocation	Difference
ALAMANCE	\$ 294,531	\$ 23,019	\$ 23,903	\$ (884)
ALEXANDER	\$ 911,635	\$ 29,344	\$ 25,479	\$ 3,865
ALLEGHANY	\$ 648,738	\$ 26,649	\$ 25,214	\$ 1,435
ANSON	\$ 2,013,174	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,308	\$ 3,692
ASHE	\$ 728,814	\$ 27,470	\$ 27,244	\$ 226
AVERY	\$ 1,017,055	\$ 30,000	\$ 24,576	\$ 5,424
BEAUFORT	\$ 791,850	\$ 28,116	\$ 25,925	\$ 2,191
BERTIE	\$ 366,066	\$ 23,752	\$ 25,605	\$ (1,853)
BLADEN	\$ 1,006,215	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,573	\$ 3,427
BRUNSWICK	\$ 272,856	\$ 22,797	\$ 22,391	\$ 406
BUNCOMBE	\$ 739,221	\$ 27,577	\$ 26,716	\$ 861
BURKE	\$ 289,805	\$ 22,970	\$ 25,933	\$ (2,962)
CABARRUS	\$ 334,606	\$ 23,430	\$ 23,185	\$ 245
CALDWELL	\$ 378,372	\$ 23,878	\$ 24,387	\$ (509)
CAMDEN	\$ 130,973	\$ 21,342	\$ 21,525	\$ (183)
CARTERET	\$ 345,177	\$ 23,538	\$ 20,937	\$ 2,601
CASWELL	\$ 496,522	\$ 25,089	\$ 25,653	\$ (564)
CATAWBA	\$ 376,308	\$ 23,857	\$ 23,319	\$ 537
CHATHAM	\$ 677,867	\$ 26,948	\$ 26,181	\$ 767
CHEROKEE	\$ 434,242	\$ 24,451	\$ 26,321	\$ (1,870)
CHOWAN	\$ 303,692	\$ 23,113	\$ 22,309	\$ 804
CLAY	\$ 269,640	\$ 22,764	\$ 23,529	\$ (766)
CLEVELAND	\$ 1,138,431	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
COLUMBUS	\$ 415,934	\$ 24,263	\$ 24,100	\$ 163
CRAVEN	\$ 334,059	\$ 23,424	\$ 21,710	\$ 1,713
CUMBERLAND	\$ 367,875	\$ 23,771	\$ 22,296	\$ 1,475
CURRITUCK	\$ 150,188	\$ 21,539	\$ 20,984	\$ 556
DARE	\$ 136,974	\$ 21,404	\$ 20,912	\$ 492
DAVIDSON	\$ 305,172	\$ 23,128	\$ 24,002	\$ (874)
DAVIE	\$ 374,868	\$ 23,842	\$ 22,822	\$ 1,020
DUPLIN	\$ 1,394,582	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
DURHAM	\$ 822,427	\$ 28,429	\$ 29,788	\$ (1,359)
EDGECOMBE	\$ 374,892	\$ 23,842	\$ 23,769	\$ 73
FORSYTH	\$ 208,820	\$ 22,140	\$ 22,648	\$ (508)
FRANKLIN	\$ 360,900	\$ 23,699	\$ 24,203	\$ (504)
GASTON	\$ 176,560	\$ 21,810	\$ 23,245	\$ (1,436)
GATES	\$ 381,660	\$ 23,912	\$ 22,703	\$ 1,209
GRAHAM	\$ 84,846	\$ 20,870	\$ 21,690	\$ (820)
GRANVILLE	\$ 234,025	\$ 22,399	\$ 22,435	\$ (37)
GREENE	\$ 271,544	\$ 22,783	\$ 23,811	\$ (1,028)
GUILFORD	\$ 412,462	\$ 24,228	\$ 24,369	\$ (142)
HALIFAX	\$ 564,307	\$ 25,784	\$ 30,000	\$ (4,216)
HARNETT	\$ 674,500	\$ 26,913	\$ 24,642	\$ 2,271

County	Best 3 of the last 7 years using CS2 (excluding disaster response contracts) at 100% + outside funds at 25%	Proposed Draft FY2027-2029 Technical Assistance Allocation	FY2026 Allocation	Difference
HAYWOOD	\$ 483,966	\$ 24,960	\$ 26,382	\$ (1,421)
HENDERSON	\$ 748,176	\$ 27,668	\$ 28,287	\$ (618)
HERTFORD	\$ 342,155	\$ 23,507	\$ 22,885	\$ 622
HOKE - no TA funds requested	\$ 729,682	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HYDE	\$ 346,507	\$ 23,552	\$ 23,212	\$ 340
IREDELL	\$ 543,498	\$ 25,571	\$ 24,708	\$ 863
JACKSON	\$ 298,871	\$ 23,063	\$ 22,582	\$ 481
JOHNSTON	\$ 656,713	\$ 26,731	\$ 23,944	\$ 2,787
JONES	\$ 682,839	\$ 26,999	\$ 26,143	\$ 856
LEE	\$ 241,039	\$ 22,471	\$ 22,584	\$ (113)
LENOIR	\$ 854,234	\$ 28,755	\$ 24,917	\$ 3,839
LINCOLN	\$ 710,279	\$ 27,280	\$ 26,940	\$ 340
MACON	\$ 281,627	\$ 22,887	\$ 25,359	\$ (2,473)
MADISON	\$ 275,864	\$ 22,827	\$ 23,216	\$ (388)
MARTIN	\$ 691,820	\$ 27,091	\$ 23,394	\$ 3,697
MCDOWELL	\$ 169,940	\$ 21,742	\$ 23,177	\$ (1,436)
MECKLENBURG	\$ 153,556	\$ 21,574	\$ 21,469	\$ 105
MITCHELL	\$ 668,565	\$ 26,852	\$ 25,612	\$ 1,240
MONTGOMERY	\$ 486,321	\$ 24,985	\$ 23,840	\$ 1,145
MOORE	\$ 1,514,479	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
NASH	\$ 334,998	\$ 23,434	\$ 23,190	\$ 244
NEW HANOVER	\$ 27,500	\$ 20,282	\$ 20,126	\$ 156
NORTHAMPTON	\$ 468,871	\$ 24,806	\$ 25,577	\$ (771)
ONSLOW	\$ 451,589	\$ 24,629	\$ 24,492	\$ 137
ORANGE	\$ 363,776	\$ 23,729	\$ 25,051	\$ (1,322)
PAMLICO	\$ 233,047	\$ 22,389	\$ 24,190	\$ (1,801)
PASQUOTANK	\$ 138,442	\$ 21,419	\$ 21,620	\$ (201)
PENDER	\$ 695,990	\$ 27,134	\$ 23,411	\$ 3,723
PERQUIMANS	\$ 189,612	\$ 21,943	\$ 23,021	\$ (1,077)
PERSON	\$ 233,586	\$ 22,394	\$ 22,316	\$ 79
PITT	\$ 573,828	\$ 25,881	\$ 23,848	\$ 2,034
POLK	\$ 86,968	\$ 20,891	\$ 25,605	\$ (4,713)
RANDOLPH	\$ 1,531,322	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
RICHMOND	\$ 763,505	\$ 27,826	\$ 24,519	\$ 3,307
ROBESON	\$ 1,251,829	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
ROCKINGHAM	\$ 446,769	\$ 24,579	\$ 25,587	\$ (1,007)
ROWAN	\$ 253,178	\$ 22,595	\$ 23,249	\$ (654)
RUTHERFORD	\$ 651,727	\$ 26,680	\$ 26,550	\$ 130
SAMPSON	\$ 1,845,715	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
SCOTLAND	\$ 723,378	\$ 27,414	\$ 25,038	\$ 2,377
STANLY	\$ 832,358	\$ 28,531	\$ 26,743	\$ 1,789
STOKES	\$ 416,187	\$ 24,266	\$ 25,391	\$ (1,125)
SURRY	\$ 1,866,249	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
SWAIN	\$ 106,995	\$ 21,097	\$ 21,779	\$ (682)
TRANSYLVANIA	\$ 225,799	\$ 22,314	\$ 23,170	\$ (856)
TYRRELL	\$ 390,499	\$ 24,002	\$ 26,190	\$ (2,188)
UNION	\$ 711,303	\$ 27,290	\$ 25,017	\$ 2,273
VANCE	\$ 102,313	\$ 21,049	\$ 21,275	\$ (226)
WAKE	\$ 863,040	\$ 28,846	\$ 24,488	\$ 4,358
WARREN	\$ 269,421	\$ 22,761	\$ 23,659	\$ (898)

County	Best 3 of the last 7 years using CS2 (excluding disaster response contracts) at 100% + outside funds at 25%	Proposed Draft FY2027-2029 Technical Assistance Allocation	FY2026 Allocation	Difference
WASHINGTON	\$ 315,604	\$ 23,235	\$ 23,181	\$ 53
WATAUGA	\$ 656,566	\$ 26,729	\$ 26,888	\$ (158)
WAYNE	\$ 460,559	\$ 24,720	\$ 26,816	\$ (2,096)
WILKES	\$ 1,440,328	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
WILSON	\$ 259,856	\$ 22,663	\$ 23,154	\$ (491)
YADKIN	\$ 743,750	\$ 27,623	\$ 28,710	\$ (1,087)
YANCEY	\$ 405,006	\$ 24,151	\$ 23,902	\$ 249