How Do We Improve Our Resilience to Flooding?



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NC Sea Grant

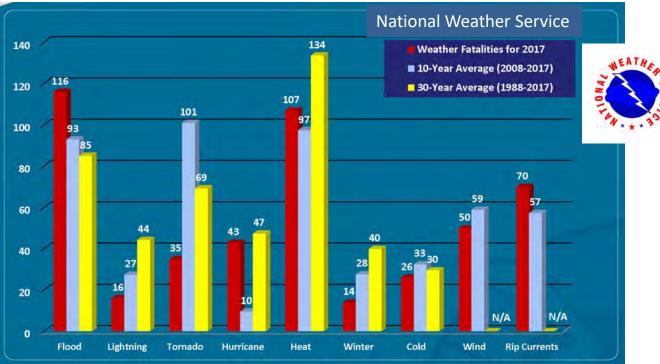
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Cost of Flooding (U.S.)

- 85 deaths per year (30-year average)
- \$59 billion in property damage (2017)
- 90% of all US natural disasters result from flooding. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2005)
- 41 million U.S. residents about 13 percent of the entire population– are at risk from flooding along rivers. 3 X more than FEMA regulatory flood map (100-year) estimates- Environmental Research Letters, 2018



Hurricane Matthew, Hope Mills, N.C., October 2016 Drone Image by Quavas Hart, Source: NPR



Community Technical Flood Assistance

- Small towns lack capacity (funding or staff) to perform engineering analyses
- Unsure how to develop a scope of work for watershed hydrology & hydraulic analyses
- Need modeling, data and cost in order to base future decisions (funding, post- flood response and planning efforts)



Windsor Mayor, Jim Hoggard, following a presentation of the Cashie River study results to the Bertie County Commissioners on July 2, 2018.

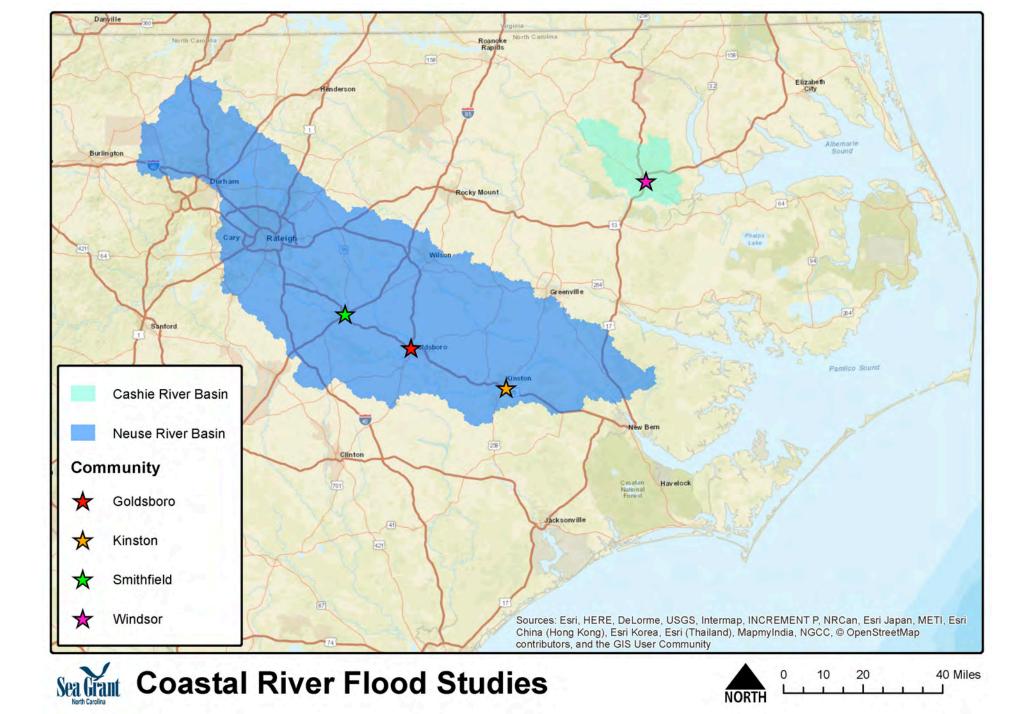
Assisting Coastal Communities with Riverine Flooding



Windsor, Bertie County

Neuse River





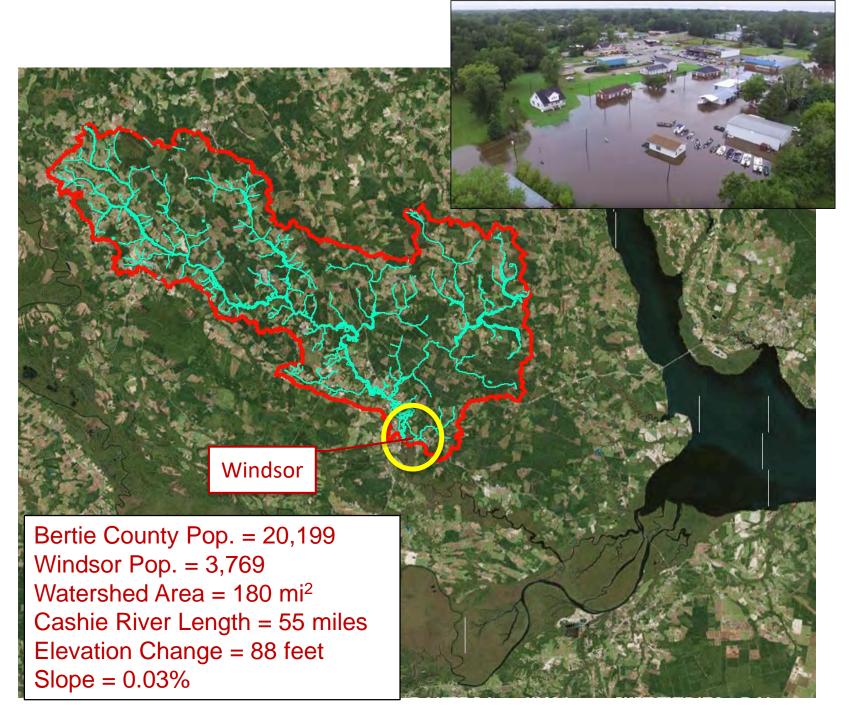
Windsor Flood Mitigation Study

Purpose:

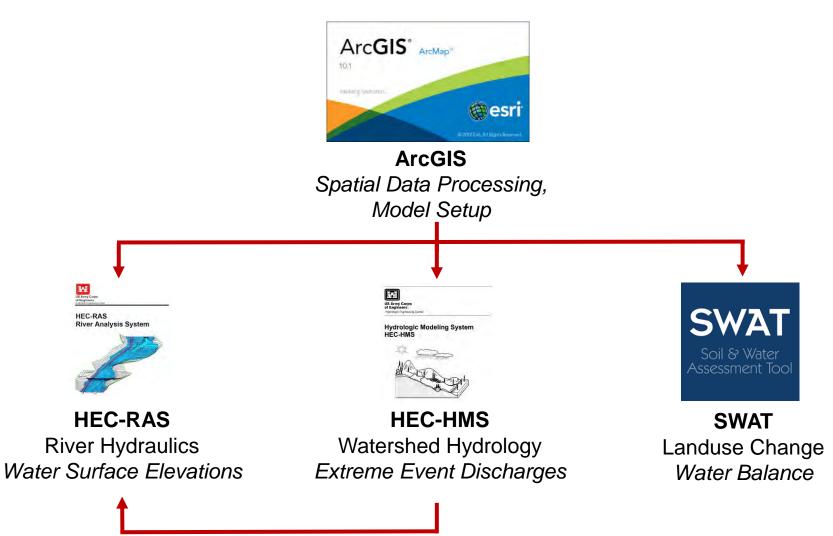
 Why does it flood? And what, if anything, can we do about it?

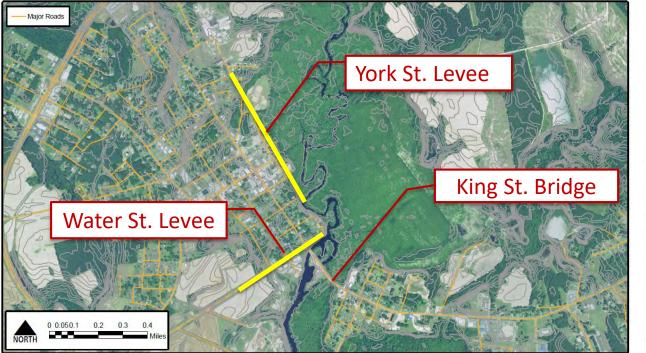
Project Elements:

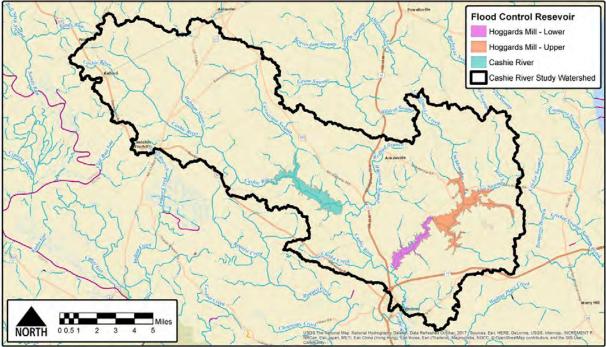
- Evaluated causes of flooding including local "perceptions"
- Identified, investigated, modeled and developed cost estimates for potential mitigation options:
 - Increasing Bridge Spans
 - Controlled Drainage (Ag & Timber)
 - Adding Levees
 - Impoundments



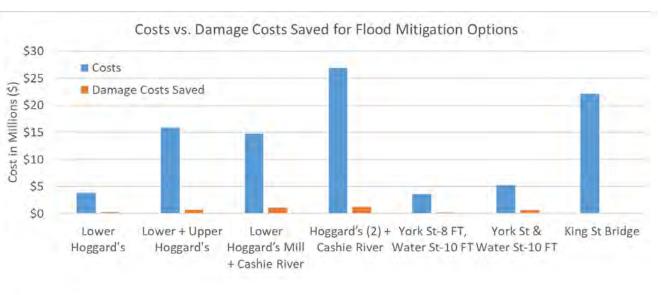
Study Tools and Models











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2000

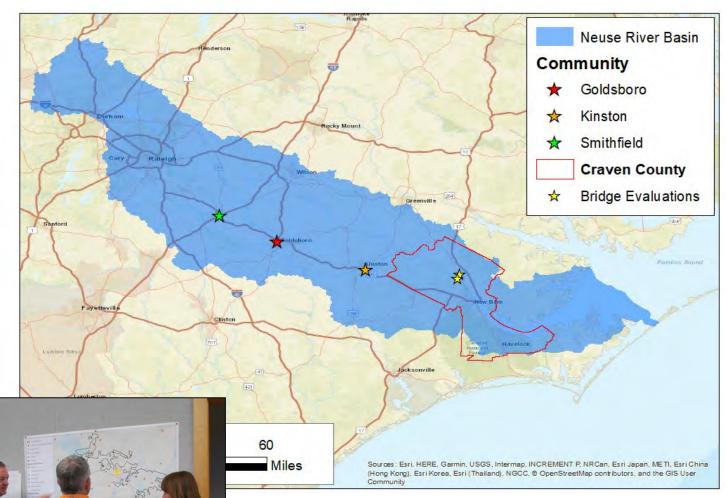
NC DOT Neuse River Flood Mitigation Study

Purpose

- Better understand the source(s) and nature of flooding
- Identify and evaluate potential flood mitigation measures (focus on transportation)
- Smithfield, Goldsboro, Kinston & Carteret County

Stakeholder Workshops

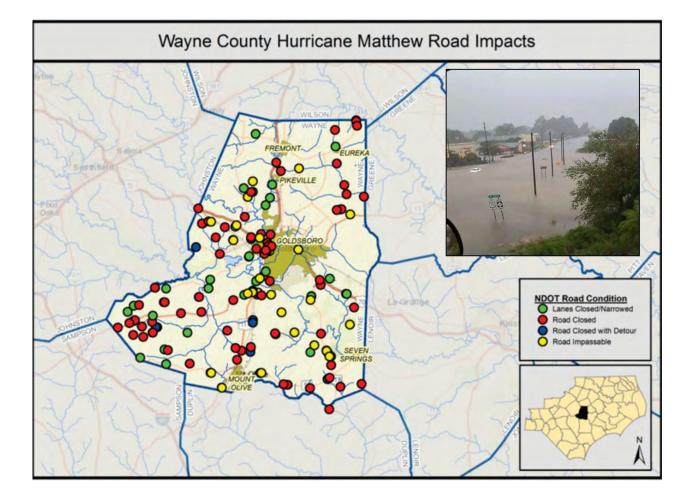
- Emergency responders
- Public works
- Engineering
- Mayor
- City manager
- Planners/land use managers



Workshop Purpose: Gather relevant information about flooding and flood-related impacts

DOT Detailed Scope of Work

- Develop early-warning for road closures
- Model river crossings suspected of exacerbating flooding
- Prioritize downtown crossings subject to flash flooding for upgrade
- Model additional upstream development and future extreme weather events
- Review local floodplain ordinances (Gavin Smith, UNC-Chapel Hill Dept. of City and Regional Planning)



1. Develop early-warning for road closures

Purpose: Provide advanced warning of road closures to Municipal Officials, Emergency Managers and Citizens

FIMAN Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network

0

Stage: 9.1 ft

18.8 ft NAVD 88



Real-time River Stage (Elevation) Data from USGS and NC EM gages



Zoom In to 🕄

> 5 Ft

4 - 5 Ft

3-4Ft

2-3Ft

1-2Ft

0-1Ft

< 0 Ft

Buildings Affecte

0

NC EM FIMAN Model which predicts and maps areas flooded based on river elevation

Constant IS

Last updated: Apr 10, 2018 at 3:15 PM

3280 cfs

Flow 12

Neuse River at Kinston Q

um: 9.8ft NAVD88 Site ID: 02

buildings damages

\$500



BOUT MAP

Gage Level

Forecast Peak Condition

Gage Symbols

Risk Ratings

Normal

Minor Flooding

Major Flooding

Not Risk Rated

Out of Service

(A) Rising

↓ Falling

- Constant

Moderate Flooding

0



NC DOT Travel Information System (Web-based map and Phone App

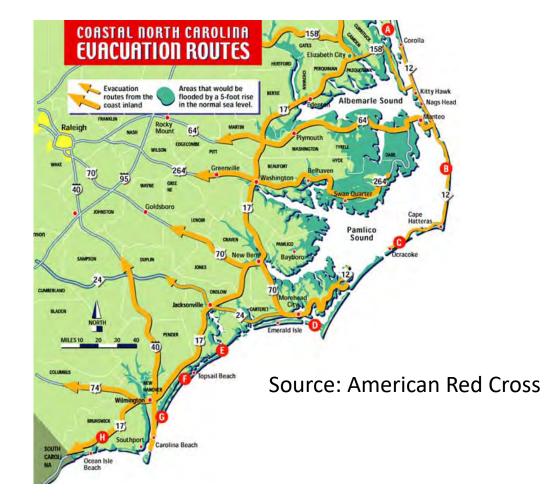
1. Develop early-warning for road closures

Preliminary Roads Identified at Workshops

- Smithfield
 - Hwy 70
 - Hwy 301
 - Interstate 95
- Goldsboro
 - Hwy 117 (multiple locations)
 - Interstate 795 (multiple locations)
 - Arrington Bridge Rd
- Kinston
 - Hwy 70 (multiple locations)
 - Hwy 258/58 (multiple locations)

Storm Evacuation Routes

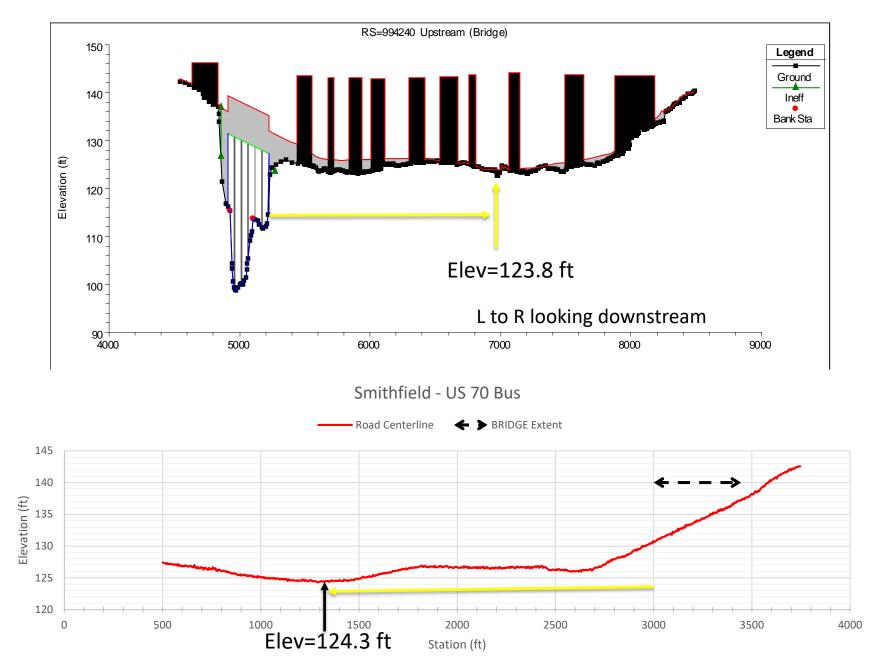
Primary and Secondary Roads



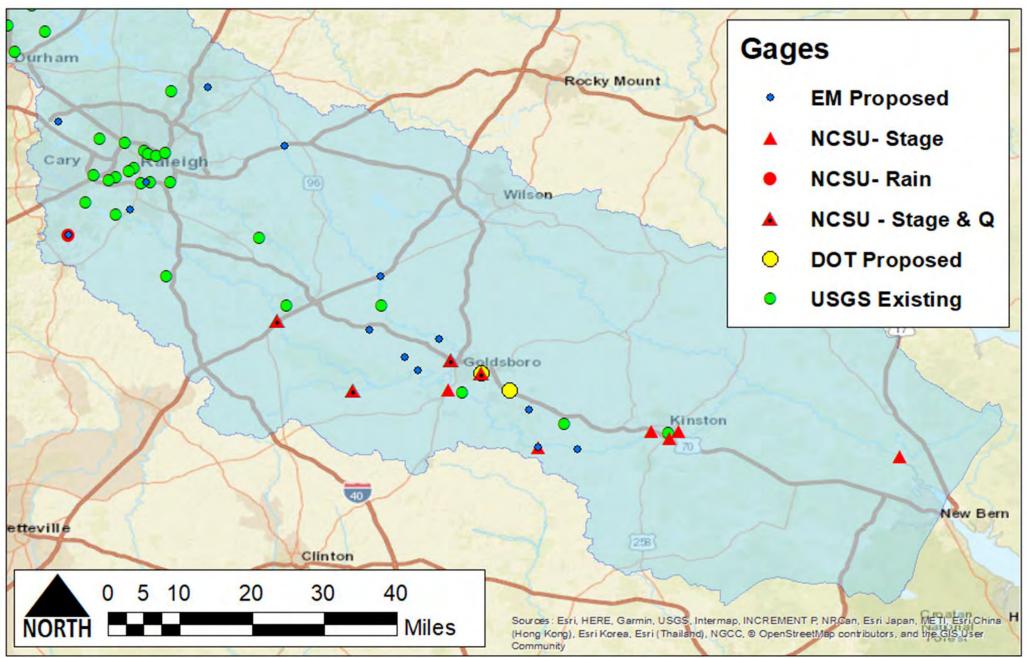
US 70B Smithfield



HEC-RAS and **LIDAR**



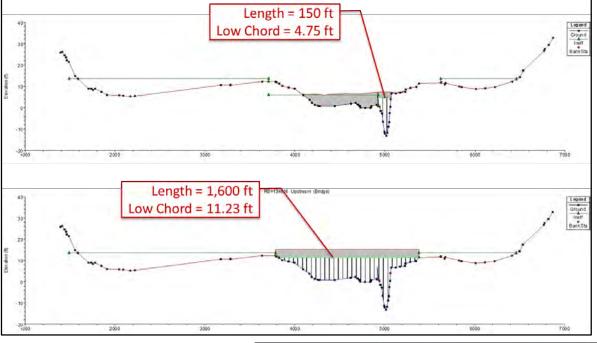
2. Identify locations for new stream gages



3. Model river crossings suspected of exacerbating flooding

- Kinston
 - RR crossing on Neuse River southeast of town
 - Highway 70 and Highway 258 crossing
- Smithfield
 - RR crossing east of Market St. and N.
 9th St.
 - Highway 301
- Goldsboro
 - Arrington Bridge Road
- Craven County
 - Highway 43 over the Neuse
 - Highway 43 over Swift Creek

Example of similar modeling conducted on King St. Bridge on Cashie River at Windsor, NC





4. Prioritize upgrade of tributary crossings subject to flash flooding



Source: WRAL - Flash Floods receding in Goldsboro on 9-15-18 prior to Neuse River Stage reaching peak

- Kinston Adkin Branch, Jericho Run and Taylor's Branch
- Smithfield Spring Branch and Buffalo Creek
- **Goldsboro** Stoney Creek, Big Ditch and Billy Bud Creek

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4. Prioritize upgrade of tributary crossings subject to flash flooding

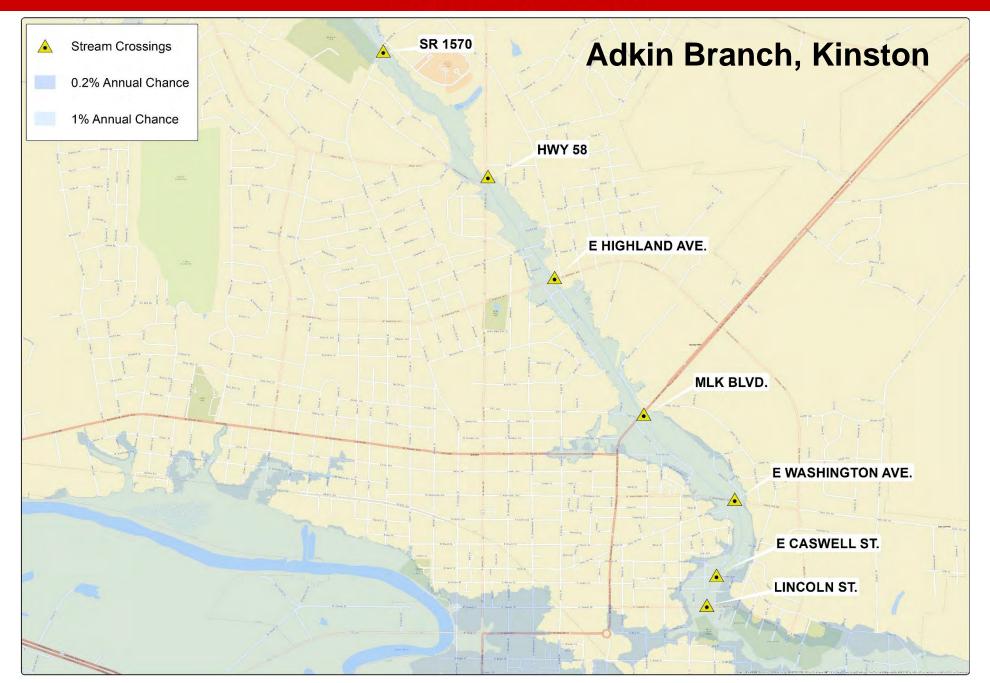
- Inventory crossings
 - location, size & configuration
- Evaluate capacity
- Obtain existing hydraulic models
- Prioritize transportation importance



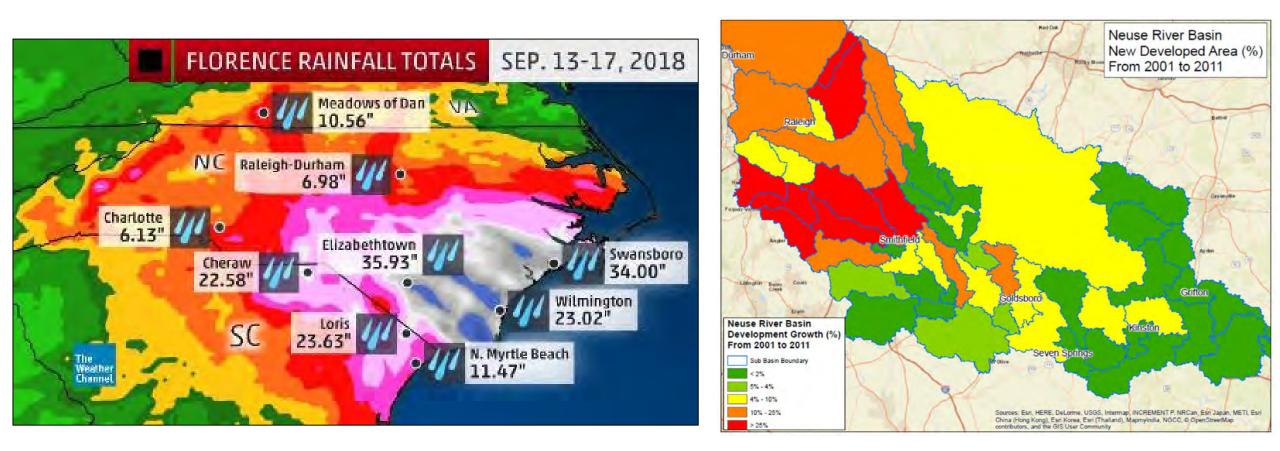
NC 11 south of Kinston (WITN)

- Develop alternatives for all under-sized and low elevation crossings
- Develop a decision matrix for prioritizing replacement or improvement
 - hydraulic capacity, condition, maintenance, cost of improvement, transportation importance, emergency access
- Develop planning map for each municipality
 - Photo, key characteristics and crossing improvement priority rank

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5. Model future upstream development and extreme weather



Source: The Weather Channel, NOAA NWS Preliminary Rainfall Totals

Development most significant in the upper drainage basins of the Neuse River watershed

6. Review local floodplain ordinances



MAI THI NGUYEN, PhD Associate Professor Dept. of City and Regional Planning UNC-Chapel Hill

- Review existing floodplain ordinances for Kinston, Goldsboro and Smithfield
- Review ordinances from around the country
- Recommend modifications and develop proposed language



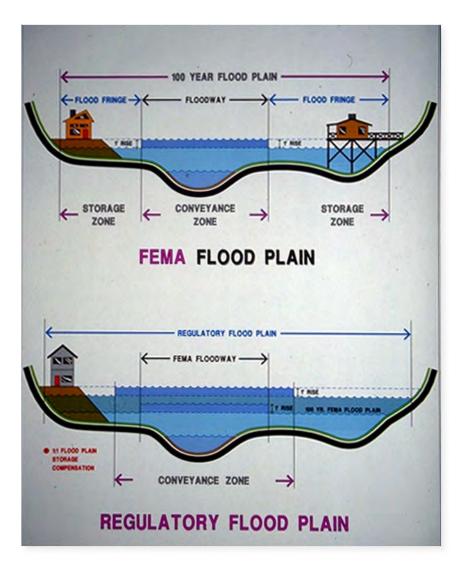
Louisville, Kentucky

1936 Ohio River Flood

1997 Ohio River Flood -40,000 homes damaged



Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) Floodplain Ordinance



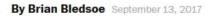
The highest and best use of floodplain land is for the storage of flood waters



Capital Weather Gang . Perspective

We still don't know how to talk about floods

The Washington Post, September 17, 2017





Floodwaters surround houses and apartment complexes in West Houston on Aug. 30. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

The author, Brian Bledsoe, is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Georgia. His research focuses on the interface of hydrology, ecology and urban water sustainability.



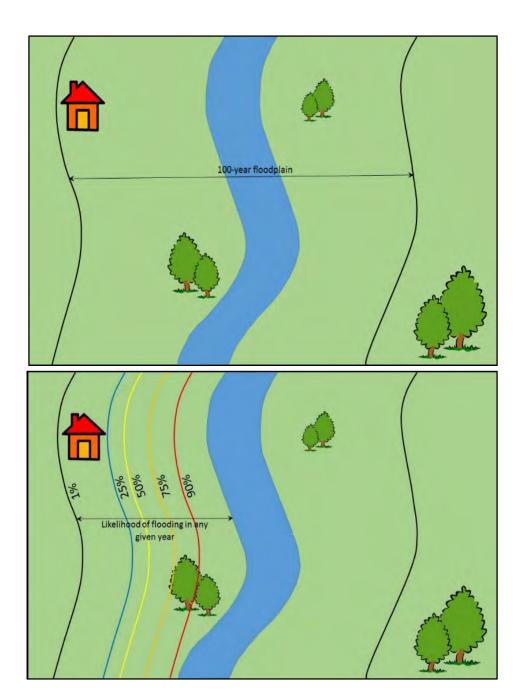
Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

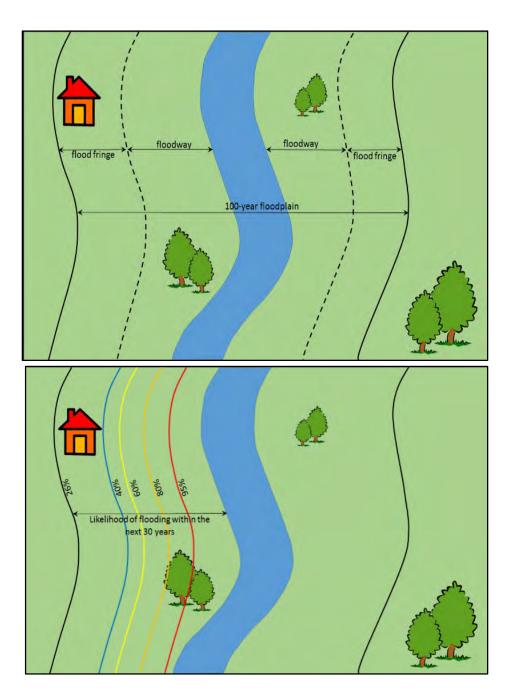


BRIAN BLEDSOE, **PH.D.**, **P.E. Professor**

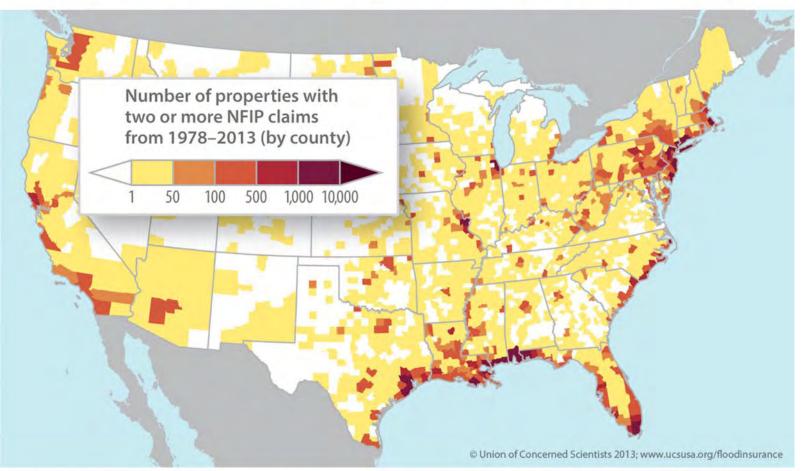
UGA AA Professor in Resilient Infrastructure **Phone**: 706-542-7249

Email: <u>bbledsoe@engr.uga.edu</u>





Repetitive-Loss Properties by U.S. County



Insurance claims on properties that are repeatedly damaged by flooding, or "repetitive losses," are of particular concern to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP has paid out almost \$9 billion in claims to repetitive-loss properties, which amounts to about a quarter of all NFIP payments since 1978. Repetitive-loss properties, shown here, account for just 1.3 percent of all policies but are responsible for fully 25 percent of all NFIP claim payments since 1978. The darker colors show counties particularly prone to repetitive losses. Map based on data from FEMA as of May 2013.

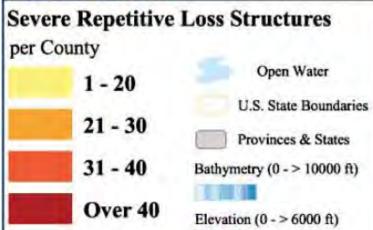
Darker colors indicate counties prone to repetitive loss claims.

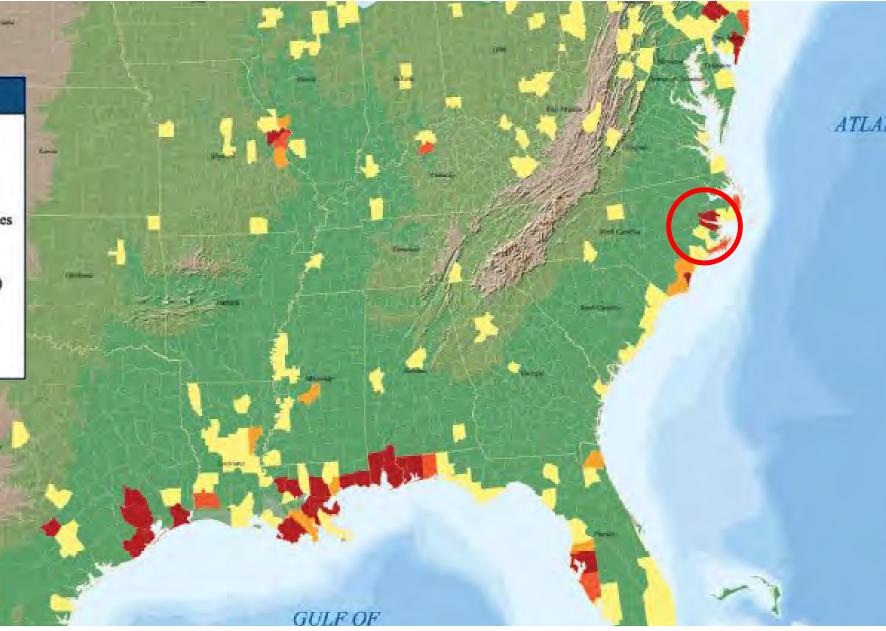
Repetitive Loss Claims:

- Represent 1.3 % of all policies
- Responsible for 25% of all claims (1978-2013) totaling \$9 billion

FEMA 2016

LEGEND







Trails for the Twenty-First Century SECOND EDITION

Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails

CHARLES A. FLINK

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY

KRISTINE OLKA ROBERT M. SEARNS

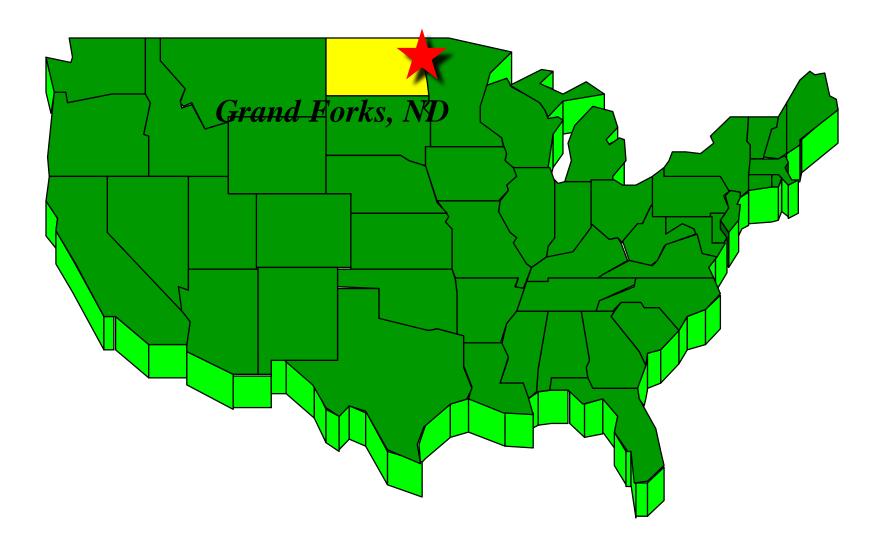


Resilient By Design

Chuck Flink, FASLA, PLA

- Award-winning author, landscape architect and environmental planner.
- Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects
- Completed projects in 250 communities within 37 states
- Consults with international clients in Asia, Canada, Europe, and South America
- Co-author of two award winning books <u>Greenways A Guide to Planning</u>, <u>Design and Development</u> and <u>Trails for the</u> <u>Twenty-First Century</u>.

Case Study: Grand Forks, North Dakota





Red River, Grand Forks, North Dakota (pop. 57,000)





Grand Forks, North Dakota



Source: Grand Forks Herald



- Most severe flood of the river since 1826
- 54 feet flood stage
- 50,000 people evacuated
- 11 buildings on fire & 60 apartment units





Source: Grand Forks Herald



The Recovery – Toward a more resilient Red River community

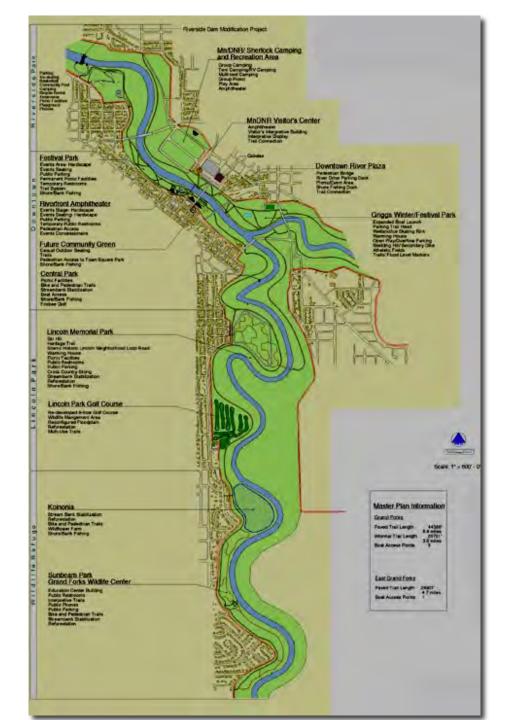
- FEMA buyout of repetitive flood loss properties (downtown buildings in East Grand Forks and Grand Forks and an entire neighborhood of 50 residential homes were removed)
- Build a protective, flexible floodwall/levee system
- Reimagine/rebuild the downtown
- Implement a 2,200-acre greenway plan (20 miles of trails) \$15 million
- Program the greenway for activity



Greater Grand Forks Greenway Master Plan

















East Grand Forks, MN







Grand Forks Greenway Use & Value



FRENDS GREENW

GRAND FORKS/EAST GRAND FORKS

50,000 attended first Greenway Day in 2003







Grand Forks Greenway

















Revenue Projections Greater Grand Forks Greenway





Annual Revenue Projections for Greenway

	Base Dollars	Total Dollars (multiplier effect)
Direct Revenue	\$28,860	\$50,148
Indirect Revenue	\$600,660	\$1,081,188
Community Revenue	\$8,580,863	\$15,445,553
Total	\$9,209,383	\$16,576,889



Grand Forks Greenway - Press



184 FORBES MAY 22, 2006

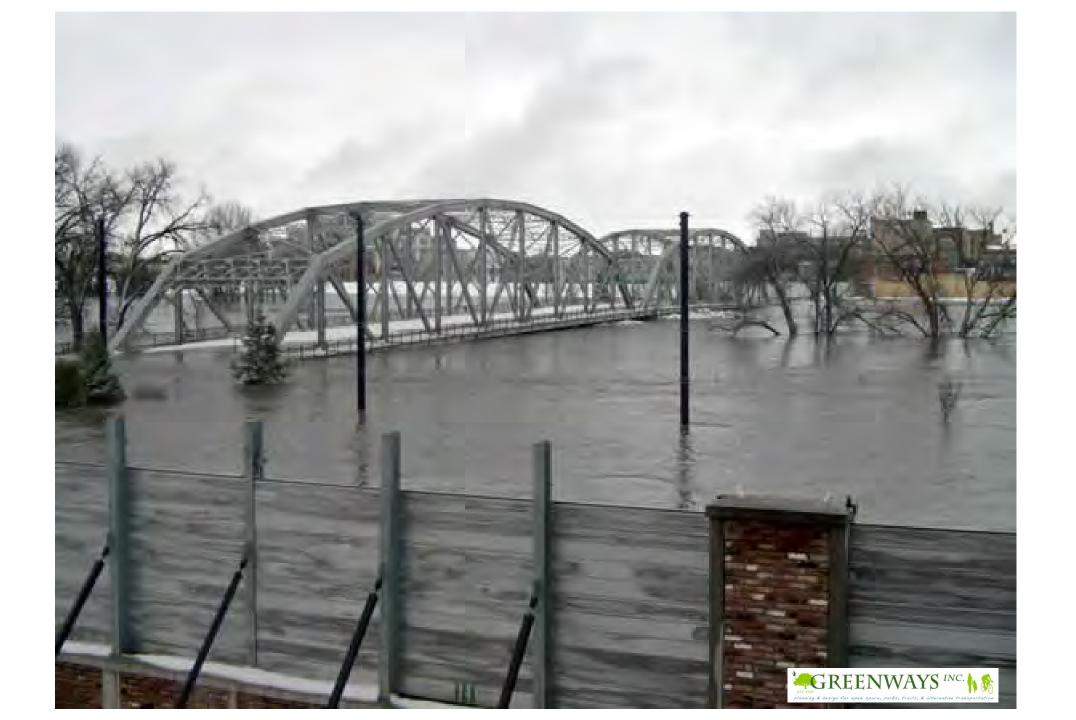


"about the best example we have to date" when it comes to flood protection as a public amenity Kevin Holden, US Army Corps of Engineers









Grand Forks Greenway

1997

1897

1979 1882 1996

VII.

1

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Source: Grand Forks Herald





Take Home Points

- North Carolina communities need financial and technical assistance with flood mitigation analysis, planning, design and implementation
- Think outside the box! Then, apply the best models to evaluate flooding scenarios and potential abatement measures
- Need to better understand and <u>better communicate</u> the risks and uncertainty of future flood events, especially considering current and future climate conditions
- Relocation of repeat loss structures should be a priority
- The most important use of floodplains is to store floodwater!
- Define a place for water and a place for people Water always wins!
- Recovery of floodplains can create beneficial opportunities for communities